

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

Vol. LXIX.]

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Far Eastern News.....	185
Leading Articles:—	
Vails at Peking.....	186
Hongkong Opium Question.....	186
Consular Reports.....	187
An Imperial Army.....	187
Weihaiwei.....	188
Random Reflections.....	188
Hongkong News.....	189
Chinese Representation on the Sanitary Board.....	189
Launch at Kowloon.....	189
Sanitary Board.....	189
Supreme Court.....	190
Canton-Hankow Railway.....	191
Turbulent Yaumati.....	191
Strange Death at Yaumati.....	192
Suppression of Opium Smoking in Kwangtung.....	192
Opium Commission.....	192
Hongkong University Scheme.....	192
Company Reports:—	
Hongkong Hotel Co., Ltd.....	193
Union Waterboat Co., Ltd.....	193
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited.....	194
Shanghai Dividends.....	194
Company Meeting:—	
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.....	194
Attempted Stealing in a Jeweller's shop.....	195
Gambling at the Races.....	195
Old "Hongkong Regiment".....	195
Manila Extradition Case.....	195
Hongkong Opium Divans Closed.....	195
Canton River Collision Case.....	196
Hongkong Perjury Appeal.....	196
Murder of Mr. Brooke.....	197
Board of Communications.....	197
Absconding Bank Shroff.....	197
Combating Rinderpest in the Philippines.....	197
British Flag at Sea.....	197
Japan Notes.....	198
Vails at Peking.....	198
Kulangsu (Amoy) Municipal Council.....	198
Shipping Notes.....	199
Correspondence:—	
Tokyo Tramways.....	199
Japanese Shipping Subsidies.....	200
Hongkong Tramways.....	200
Shanghai Trade.....	200
Residency-General in Korea.....	200
Far Eastern Telegrams.....	200
Interport Cricket.....	201
British North Borneo.....	201
Commercial.....	201
Shipping.....	203

BIRTH.

On February 26th, at Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. E. JONAH, a son.

MARRIAGE.

At Wortley Parish Church, Yorkshire, on the 11th January, by the Rev. E. Wilcox, GEORGE HUNTER, of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Company, Hongkong, to MAUDE AMELIA HALLAS, of Leeds.

DEATHS.

At "Craigieburn" North Finchley, London on the 20th instant, LILLIAS LEISHMAN CRAWFORD, widow of the late D. R. Crawford in her 69th year (by cable).

At Shanghai, on the 20th February, NANCY GORE-BOOTH, dearly beloved daughter of R. H. GORE-BOOTH, aged 23 years.

At 6 Lochiel Terrace, Kowloon, on Feb. 21st ELIZABETH, dearly beloved wife of Capt. R. HOUGHTON, s.s. *On Sang*.

At Shanghai, on the 27th February, FRIEDRICH WILHELM HOFFMANN, aged 40 years.

At Hongkong, on the 2nd March, JOSE CARMELITO DE PINNA, beloved son of MARCELLINA ANTONIA DE PINNA, aged 33 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The English Mail of the 5th February, and the parcel mails closed in London for despatch by the all sea route on the 27th January and for despatch overland on the 3rd February arrived for s.s. *Macedonia* on the 4th inst.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

Chinese rice-dealers in Java are expecting heavy losses, as the market is considerably overstocked.

Singapore papers report the death of Mr. Edward Sandemann, one of the oldest residents born in Singapore.

The commissioners appointed to revise the commercial laws of China have decided to model them on British law.

Hankow papers record the death of Mr. Linton, formerly of Shanghai and for the past nine years secretary of the Hankow Club.

Bishop Oldham is at present in Manila to preside over the second annual session of the Philippine Islands Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The wreck of the British steamer *Adato*, stranded off Vries Island, was bought by the Yamashita Marine Engineering Office of Tokyo, at ¥6,000 on the 17th ult.

Mr. Sherman Mereland, representative from the city of Elmira in the lower body of the New York Legislature, has been appointed a Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines.

A Bund lot at Hankow commonly known as Geo. Clarke's lot, has passed into the hands of a Shanghai syndicate, the object presumably being to build an up-to-date hotel on the site.

A Hankow contemporary states Mr. Taylor will return to that port in April to take charge of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank local branch, and Mr. Wright will leave for Kobe in a similar capacity at that port.

A college has been established at Peking for the special purpose of training young men to undertake the development of the waste lands in the interior of China. The college is to open this month with one hundred selected students.

The death is announced from England of Mr. R. H. Boyce who was for many years in charge of H. B. M. Office of Works in Shanghai, until succeeded by Mr. Marshall. Deceased, who was 75 years of age, died from the effects of an operation.

A Chinese contemporary says it is reported that H.E. Liang Tun Yen, the President of the Wai Wu Pu, has discussed with Prince Ching the question of asking the Foreign Powers to hand back to the Chinese Government the control of the foreign settlements in the various treaty ports.

Sir C. Clementi Smith, G.C.M.G., Dr. and Mrs. Hamilton Wright, Bishop C. H. Brent, Dr. C. D. Tenney, and several others of the Opium Commission left Shanghai last Saturday for Hankow en route to Peking. The party intended, if possible, to make a brief stop at Nanking to visit the Viceroy.

A Japanese contemporary states that H.E. Prince Ito, Resident-General of Korea, who has recently gone home, is not thought likely to return to Seoul. His Excellency may devote his time and labour to the tutorage of the Crown Prince of Korea, leaving Viscount Sone in charge of the Residency-General.

The post of Commissioner of Customs at Tientsin, vacant by the death of Mr. Lennox Simpson, has been filled by the appointment of Mr. H. M. Hillier to the post. Mr. Hillier is the brother of Sir Walter Hillier, now advising the Chinese Government in Peking. Mr. Hillier has lately been filling the position of Chinese Secretary to the Inspectorate-General.

News has reached Japan of the death in Germany of Mr. A. Oestmann, founder of the Kobe firm of A. Oestmann & Co. Mr. Oestmann, the *Japan Chronicle* says, was for many years one of the best-known and most highly respected members of the Kobe community. He was for some years a member of the former Municipal Council and also held the office of President of the Club Concordia. Perhaps no one in Kobe ever had so many arbitrations to decide as Mr. Oestmann, this being evidence of the peculiar respect and esteem in which he was held and the reliance placed on his absolute impartiality and perfect integrity. It was generally recognized as a serious loss to the foreign community of Kobe, when in 1901, after thirty years' residence in the port, Mr. Oestmann decided to make his home once more in Europe.

A painful tragedy was brought to light last week at Shanghai when a Chinese servant discovered his master—Mr. Friedrich Wilhelm Hoffman—lying in his room in an unconscious condition with a severe wound in his head and a revolver lying near by on the floor. The "boy" who made the discovery reported the matter. Medical men were summoned and Mr. Hoffman's injuries were attended to at his residence, where he remained in a critical condition all day. Mr. Hoffman, who is of middle age, was formerly a Captain in the German army, and for some time was an instructor in the Chinese army. Later he joined Messrs. Arphold, Karberg and Co., and had charge of the Arms Department, but since last year he has been carrying on business at No. 18 Kiangse Road under the style of F. W. Hoffman and Co.

The *Straits Times* learns that a bold scheme has been prepared for increasing the recreative facilities of Singapore. Broadly, the proposal is to form an enclosure somewhere on the reclaimed land between Beach Road and the sea, and to construct therein a swimming bath 90 feet by 27 feet, 3 feet 6 inch deep at one end and 10 feet deep at the other. Round the outside of the bath there would be a rink for roller skating, the length of which would be 180 feet and the breadth 80 feet while, as an outer ring, there would be a cycle and racing track giving 14 laps to the mile, and finally there would be raised stands and seats for spectators, and beyond them dressing rooms for bathers. The whole would be under cover with the exception of the space over the bath, which would form a convenient aid to ventilation. The idea is that all kinds of sports could be arranged for and that, having a high class band, the stadium, as one may call it for convenience, could be made very attractive. Shows of any description, including cinematograph entertainments, could be given. The scheme has not been fully matured, but it appears to be in energetic hands.

VAILS AT PEKING.

(Daily Press, March 1st.)

The very worst of the many abuses, political and financial, which batten in Peking is the system of universal vails. A high officer on appointment has to present himself before the Emperor to receive his final instructions, and pay his homage: this is all fair and proper, and in fact is a necessary formula in all properly conducted governments in the world. In Peking, practically alone now of all governments professing to civilisation, the entrance to the Court is barred, unless the appointee give a heavy vail to each and every doorkeeper and servant in the mysterious "Forbidden City" that surrounds the person of the Emperor or his representative. No one knows the amount that may be expected of him till he has to run the gauntlet, and no one in the palace or out of it keeps any account of the sums thus exacted, nor of the purposes to which they are applied. It is known in a general way that they are enormous, and that the favourite at Court who has once gained the ear of the T'ientse, or one of his favourite wives or concubines, is able not only to indulge in unseemly extravagances within the Palace, but to remit outside for his private self enormous sums, such as betimes burden heavily the resources of the State. It is true enough that these irregular and oppressive vails have been from time immemorial looked upon as the privilege of the Oriental irresponsibility of rulers,—the only responsibility being presumed to rest with the commonalty. This has been the publicly accepted rule in every Asiatic State, with the one exception, that of China. China differs here *toto coelo* from her neighbours in that the responsibility of rulers has ever formed the foundation of her political creed, even if from want of proper upkeep the traditions have, from disuse, become betimes rusty. It is therefore by no means out of order that China has been steadily and quietly but none the less effectively, pressing for such an alteration in present ways as shall permit of more ready intercommunication of views, between rulers and ruled, and of all the present abuses of the existing regime, the mismanagement of the finances and the false system under which Imperial administration is administered, are universally felt to be the most pressing.

It is allowed on all sides that the present style of Provincial administration is responsible for many of the worst of these abuses, and the Government of the Regency is quite justified in directing public attention to provincial shortcomings, and suggesting the necessity of central control on some well understood and fixed principle, instead of the irregular and empiric methods resorted to under momentary pressure. China of all Asiatic nations is the richest and most homogeneous, and under proper control could not fail to make her influence far-reaching in the affairs of the world at large. Owing to her financial blunderings, she for the last half century has been little better than a football kicked about from one European nation to another. Now it is characteristic of Peking, as seen in its every day dealings, that the Government, and that of the Regency is here at one with that of the late regime, is always ready to take up any stone to throw at the provincial administrations. The most recent example of this was sufficiently characteristic: the Chinese nearly as ingenious as the Irish in discovering imaginary grievances, have been recently complaining of the implied hardship, that, while they turned out bank notes quite as handsome, and as well printed

as those of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank itself, that institution and other foreign banks, taking their clue therefrom, have been refusing to recognise the Chinese notes, while the Chinese found themselves compelled to accept the foreign paper money. Here was a clue that even Mr. REDMOND himself, with all his skill in discovering mare's nests, might well take a hint from. Well! recently the Chambers of Commerce have been making the continued issuing of these banknotes without any apparent backing of reserve funds, a subject of complaint, as already beginning to injure the stability of the financial centres, already sufficiently depressed; and drew the attention of the Ministers at Peking to the lasting evils that have resulted from the recent over issue of copper coins by the various governments, Provincial and Metropolitan. Prince KUNG, on behalf of the Government of the Regency returns a sympathetic reply, in which he feelingly acknowledges the weight of the evil, but says it was all the fault of those Provincials, and that he was preparing to issue edicts forbidding the issue except under stringent regulations. Peking has not been issuing notes itself, and so it struck him that he could safely say all this without exposing the Government to obliquy. Unfortunately the reason why Peking has not been issuing notes "payable on demand" is the very effective one that it dare not. History records two or three instances where Peking took to issuing notes payable on demand, and the nation at large has had too good reason to appreciate the promise at its full value, which was exactly nothing; so Peking notes are effectively *Taboo*, as effectively as Hienfeag hundred-cash-pieces which used to litter the streets of the capital, not being worth the trouble even of picking up. But, as with the issue of the now discredited ten-cash pieces of four years ago, Peking has really had much, if not most, to say to the issue of these unbacked notes. The suggestion seems at all events to have come from the Capital, and reasoning from what occurred with regard to the expensive fiasco of the ten-cash issue, we are fairly well entitled to say that Peking has already secured payment in advance for shutting its eyes.

Now one of the remarkable things about the present ministry of the Regency in Peking, is that, although it is always quite ready to fling the stone at the provinces, the hint is not permitted to escape that, after all, the suggestion has in the first instance proceeded from the entourage of the Regent. We know, for instance, that the suggestion to the province to issue the recent copper currency came directly from Peking, and was put forward as the first step in a programme of financial reform. There is every reason to believe that the privilege of issuing the coins was made a matter of open barter between Peking and the provinces; and that Peking finding that the scheme was developing more profitably than it had at first calculated, increased its demands on the provincials, and this was the real reason why the issue went to the disastrous lengths that it did. Now, reviewing the situation as between Capital and Provinces it is, to say the least of it, remarkable that in all the paraded coming "reform" it is always the provinces, and the provincial government that are to be reformed, while a discreet (?) silence is invariably maintained as to the reform of that Augean stable of corruption, Peking itself.

We feel ourselves all the more entitled to speak plainly on this topic that we have from the beginning, where we saw that the Government of the Regency was being

unfairly attacked, added what little support was in our power to that government by pointing out the true source of these damaging reports. We, however, cannot shut our eyes to the fact, that while that Government is still reaping a dishonourable profit from the misdeeds which it is so prominent in deprecating in public, it says not one word of those reforms within, without which its whole programme of "Reform" is but an empty sound. Without the connivance, and, in many cases, the direct suggestion of the Peking, many of the worst of these abuses under which the Empire is groaning could not have come into existence; and without the removal of the slough of corruption at head quarters, cleaning out the depositories in the provinces can not be of the slightest avail. This is the part of the story that the Ministers, foreign as well as native, on the spot wilfully and persistently shut their eyes to, as too unpleasant a topic to drag into the light of day; yet on its removal depends the future of the Administration, and whether or not China is to be once more thrust back to wallow in the old puddle of contempt. The fountain has been poisoned at the source, and the attempt to correct it by applying palliatives to the effluent must ever, as before, prove futile. The real want of China before any reform in the provincial administrations is possible, is to clarify the relations towards them of the Government itself, and the first step to be taken towards this is to abolish, once and for all, all personal contribution from the high officials of whatever nature, and to substitute for these regular provincial payments, duly published and accounted for. Until something like this be accomplished Imperial promises of reforms, provincial or metropolitan, are of as little store as the nicely printed bank notes which, with no backing of reserve capital, can only render the financial condition of China more hopeless than ever.

HONGKONG'S OPIUM QUESTION.

(Daily Press, 2nd March.)

We announce in another column the fact that twenty-six opium divans were closed in Hongkong yesterday in accordance with an arrangement made some time ago by the Government with the Opium Farmer. It is ten months since the Secretary of State for the Colonies communicated to the Governor by telegram the decision of His Majesty's Government that steps must be immediately taken to close the so-called opium dens in the Colony, as the Government felt that they must act up to the standard set in this matter by the Chinese Government. The disorganisation of the finances of the Colony which such action would entail naturally aroused strong opposition in the Colony. From statements made in the House of Commons we know that in the interval His Excellency the Governor has represented to the Government the difficulties in the way of any immediate compliance with the instructions received, and mention has been made in Parliament also of certain recommendations on the subject by the Governor which have apparently been engaging the attention of the Colonial Office for months past. What those recommendations are have not yet been disclosed, nor is it necessary to conclude from the fact that twenty-six divans were closed yesterday that the Governor's recommendations have been rejected, for, as we have said, the arrangement which came into force yesterday appears to have been concluded several months ago. The closing of twenty-six divans in the Colony, out of

a total exceeding two hundred, cannot materially affect the value of the Opium Farmer's monopoly, and it will occasion no surprise to learn that whatever claim the Farmer might have considered himself justified in preferring in the matter was waived and that the negotiations were conducted in a perfectly conciliatory manner. What business has hitherto been done by the twenty-six houses which are now closed will no doubt be distributed among the remaining houses, and the only people to suffer are the persons who have been thus deprived of their occupations, and—unless the premises are let for other purposes—the Colonial Treasury which will suffer a small loss in revenue from taxation. In Shanghai, Amoy and other places arrangements have been made for closing in quarterly batches the whole of the divans within the jurisdiction of the respective municipal councils, but so far as we are able to learn the future course of action in Hongkong has not yet been settled. The contract with the Opium Farmer has another twelve months to run, and whatever decision is taken in the meantime is not, we surmise, likely to come into operation until the 1st of March 1910. Now that the Opium Commission at Shanghai has practically concluded its deliberations we may not have long to wait for the Imperial Government's decision upon the recommendations sent Home by His Excellency the Governor. Though their nature has not been made public we may be quite sure that the object of them all is to avoid any violent dislocation of the Colony's finances, and when at the end of February next the present opium contract expires, it can hardly be contemplated that the business will entirely cease. No better plan of dealing with this difficult question has been suggested than that formulated last year by the local Committee of the China Association. Their suggestion was that the divans should not be interfered with during the period of the present farm, but that the number of chests drawable should be reduced from 1,800 to 1,200 per annum, and that in the new contract to be made in 1910 the number should be reduced to 900 chests, until 1913 when a scheme of annual reduction should be adopted, the details depending upon the progress of China's efforts to eradicate poppy cultivation. The advantage of this plan of gradual reduction is that any violent dislocation of the Colony's finances is avoided, and it should appeal to the most ardent advocate of the suppression of opium as a plan better calculated to achieve that purpose than the annual compulsory closing of a certain percentage of the houses which would not necessarily result in a corresponding decrease in the quantity of opium consumed.

Of the three chief towns of Java—Batavia, Sourabaya and Samarang—the last name is the most unhealthy. Dr. De Vogel, the Principal Civil Medical Officer of the town, says that Samarang has a heavy death-rate which, in some sections, reaches the enormous figure of 300 per 1,000. The houses are mostly bad and insanitary, and the drainage system falls far short of requirements. In the outskirts of the town, there is plenty of high-lying land suitable for building, but unhappily the Chinese have been allowed to mark them off into cemeteries. The dead hand now stops the extension of the town in healthier ground. The Municipality is at a loss how to remedy matters, and has appointed a committee to consider the question. The situation has become intolerable. Dead Chinese occupy land solely required by living Europeans and natives who are dying off in the lower levels.

CONSULAR REPORTS.

(Daily Press, March 3rd.)

The United States Government has long required from its Consuls abroad not merely annual reports on the trade of the districts in which they are stationed, but occasional reports on subjects of general and commercial interest which are published for general information as soon as they are received. Thus we notice that there has recently been published in the United States a series of Consular reports on the tendency of prices in the Far East since 1906, measured by silver currency, the Consuls being requested to report whether firms importing from the United States, Great Britain and Germany had found depreciation of silver a matter of serious embarrassment to their business during last year, and whether the depreciation of silver had stimulated to any considerable extent the export trade. We quote this as a sample because it is the latest to come under our notice, but many readers are more or less familiar with what must have now become quite a long and valuable series of reports descriptive of the various industries carried on in the districts to which the Consuls are accredited. Every now and then, too, we observe in American commercial journals hints from Consuls that this or that district offers an opportunity for pushing some particular class of goods. All these special reports and timely suggestions doubtless have great value for the merchant and manufacturer, and it has been a subject of frequent complaint in the British commercial journals that the same assistance is not rendered to trading interests by our own Consular officials. A couple of Consular reports which reached us by the last mail indicate that the British Foreign Office working in co-operation with the Board of Trade has turned over a new leaf in this respect. We have before us a Report on the Matting Industry in Japan, running into twenty-one pages, and another on the Raw Silk Industry of Japan and on Habutae (Japanese Manufactured Silk) which runs to fifty-five pages. In these reports the fullest information is given on all that concerns the industry. Glancing at the Report on the Matting Industry we find that it treats of the interest of British merchants in the trade, its distribution, the characteristics of matting, locality of production and methods of cultivation, looms used in weaving, possibilities of applying water power and steam to looms, the circumstances of the producers, the factories, the sizes and qualities of matting, and much other information of a similar character. The Silk Industry is dealt with in the same ample and informing manner. A collection of reports of this character covering the industries of every country in the world should prove of inestimable value to the commercial public. We notice that the two we have mentioned are by no means the first of the kind to be presented to Parliament, for a list of nearly fifty such Reports is given, including half a dozen from the Far East, viz. one on the Cotton Mills of China; another on Land Taxation in the province of Honam; there is a Report on Japanese paper making; another on Paper Mills in Japan, a third from Japan on Tea Culture; and a fourth on the gold mines in Formosa. There is one from Corea on the results of experiments in Cotton Culture. The Government "doesn't advertise" and this "new series of Miscellaneous Reports" consequently remains we fear but little known to the public for whose information they have been written.

AN IMPERIAL ARMY.

(Daily Press, March 4th.)

Since the South African war no subject has been so widely discussed in the Empire as the subject of Imperial organisation. It has come to be recognised in England that the sentiment of a new and individual nationality in the modern and political, rather than the racial sense of the term, is a growing and permanent characteristic of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, and this sentiment, it is patent, is already strong enough to wreck any scheme of Imperial organisation which seems to antagonise it. The desire for imperial union exists as strongly in the Colonies as in the Motherland, and the discussion which has taken place during the last six years on the subject of imperial federation is now beginning to take shape in some tangible form. We publish to-day a telegram reporting that with certain modifications the Commonwealth has accepted the scheme creating an Imperial General Staff. The Dominion of Canada has also accepted the scheme. It is the outcome of certain suggestions made at the Imperial Conference two years ago in London, by the Secretary of State for War, with a view to assimilating the war organisations of the various parts of the Empire. One of these suggestions was that the General Staff created on the recommendation of LORD FISHER'S Committee, should be made Imperial in the widest sense. Mr. HALDANE'S object in putting forward this proposal for an interchange of General Staff officers throughout the Empire was that the General Staff should become "an imperial school of military thought imbued with the same traditions, accustomed to look at military problems from the same point of view, and acquainted with the principles and theories generally accepted at headquarters." REUTER informed us about a month ago that the Canadian Military authorities had conferred with the General Staff and arrived at an understanding as to the best means of giving effect to the proposal. A memorandum was finally drawn up giving form to the suggestions and establishing the General Staff on a broad Imperial basis by means of a system of exchanges. This will doubtless lead in time, perhaps at an early date, to the readjustment of the Imperial military arrangements and the elimination from the present system of the differences and distinctions which have grown up under conditions which time and development have wholly changed. It will lead also, no doubt, to a binding obligation between the Governments of all parts of the Empire to secure similarity in armament, warlike stores, and all things really essential to such uniformity as is necessary to secure that when the Imperial reserves furnished by the territorial forces from different parts of the Empire are brought together in the field, complication and confusion shall be avoided. We believe that as a matter of fact the Colonial Governments have in the past made every endeavour to assimilate the pattern of arms, stores and equipment generally with those of the Imperial forces. That is so at least in the case of the Australian Colonies, and if it is not generally the case this new scheme will be of great value in securing the desired uniformity. We do not gather that the Colonial forces are affected in any other way by this scheme. The Regular Army and its reserves will continue to be the nucleus of the Imperial Army, and for great defensive wars the Imperial Army will consist, as in the South African campaign, of the Regular Army and its Reserves, augmented

by such portion of Home and Colonial Territorial Forces as volunteer, while in times of peace the forces comprising the Imperial Army will prepare to hold themselves available for general service in war. Scientific preparation is evidently being aimed at. Though there was enormous value—material and moral—in the fortuitous assemblage of the gallant men from all parts of the Empire on the battlefields of South Africa, yet the teaching of all military history is that ten men on whom you can rely at a given date and at a given place to do a certain thing are worth a hundred who are summoned and equipped at the moment the enemy is at the gate. The scheme seems to us to result in a considerable gain to the military strength of the Empire, and represents a great step taken in the direction of Imperial federation.

WEIHAIWEI.

(Daily Press, 5th March.)

When the British residents of Weihaiwei some time ago sent a petition to the Home Government inquiring whether there was any probability of the rendition of that Dependency to China, Lord ELGIN replied: "His Majesty's Government do not feel called upon to discuss hypothetical questions." It seems not improbable however, that His Majesty's Government will be unable much longer to delay that discussion. As is generally known China, in 1898, agreed to lease Weihaiwei and the adjacent waters to Great Britain "for so long as Port Arthur shall remain in the occupation of Russia." At that time no one dreamed that any foreign Power would be likely to oust Russia from territory which she had rapidly fortified to an extent that led the world to regard Port Arthur as an impregnable fortress. Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD and the British Government took it for granted that Russia was settled at Port Arthur for at least the full term of the lease, which was twenty-five years, subject to extension by mutual agreement, and doubtless assumed that if the leased territory ever did again pass into other hands the only possibility was that Russia might at some future date give it back to China. That was a possibility that looked at that time extremely remote, because Russia had obtained the "usufruct" of Port Arthur and Talienwan, on account of "it being necessary for the due protection of her Navy in the waters of North China, that Russia should possess a station she could defend." The fortress reputed to be impregnable capitulated after a long siege to the Japanese and the Navy for whose protection it was acquired was annihilated in the Straits of Tsushima by the Japanese Fleet under Admiral Togo. With Japan in possession of Port Arthur, Great Britain's lease of Weihaiwei by a technical interpretation of the agreement came to an end, but the Chinese Government has not yet asked for the surrender of the territory and it still therefore remains a British possession. Yesterday, however, we published a Chinese telegram which announced that Prince Su had memorialised the Throne asking that instructions might be given to the Waiwupu to open up negotiations with the British Minister for the rendition of Weihaiwei. Prince Su is at the head of a small Committee of Investigation into the naval needs of the Empire. Associated with His Highness in this inquiry are Prince TSAI TZE, H. E. TIEH LIANG (President of the Waiwupu) Admiral SAH and Prince CHING. The Throne has already approved a recommendation for the creation of a Board of

Admiralty, and we have been hearing recently of decisions on the part of Prince Su's committee to establish naval colleges and of recommendations for the appointment of competent naval advisers. And now we have the Prince asking for the rendition of Weihaiwei that it might again become a Chinese naval base. At present Weihaiwei is not a profitable appanage of the British Empire. That is to say it is not self-supporting, and so long as the present uncertainty exists as to the tenure of the place by Great Britain there is little prospect of capital being attracted to develop the commercial possibilities of the place. Now that the question of the surrender has been raised in a memorial to the Throne there is some likelihood of a pronouncement being made by the Government of Great Britain on the subject. Though Lord ELGIN in his reply to the residents of Weihaiwei twelve months ago spoke of the rendition to China of this "sanatorium for the troops" as a "hypothetical question," we can hardly assume that the position has not been considered since the fall of Port Arthur. There can be little doubt that the late Government in England had made up its mind as to what action should be taken in the event of its surrender being requested by China, but it was hardly a matter on which they could bind their successors in office. This may explain why no pronouncement has heretofore been made on the subject, and it seems also to explain Lord ELGIN's description of it as a "hypothetical question." In the life time of the present Government the question of the surrender of Weihaiwei has not been raised until now, and so far there is no sanction from the Throne for the opening of the negotiations.

RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

How superior a man can feel when he is blaming somebody else for something left undone! Even the Chief Justice is very human and could not resist the opportunity the other day of suggesting that the Registrar had not acted on his instructions when he did not see that the evidence was translated to the prisoners. It may be all right to "jaw" the Registrar like this, but it occurred to me that the Chief Justice himself is guilty of not following his own instructions. The conduct of the court rests with him and he should certainly see that all the legal requirements are complied with. At least that is the opinion of a layman who may be expected to take the commonsense view as against the legal view.

Dear me, what does the Inspector of Schools mean when he suggests that the children from the Peak ought to make more use of the British School in Kowloon? The school is no doubt an admirable one but surely it is too much to expect our children, precocious as they are, to become seasoned and experienced travellers at the age of eight?

Sir Frederick, how could you be so thoughtless! It is not like your usual tact to wound your friends in their own home, yet that is what, unwittingly I believe, you did the other morning when addressing children at the Kowloon British School. You advised the young people, a large proportion of whom are of Scottish birth, to qualify to become good English fathers and mothers. Isn't that just a little bit rough on our friends "ayont the Tweed?" Kowloon has been described as a piece of Scotland which has become detached, but even if that fact were not known the predominance of the Doric in the peninsula ought to have told its own tale. I feel sure His Excellency will not offend again.

I have seen a copy of the questions which masters of vessels calling at certain Japanese ports have to answer. Apparently the authorities in the northern empire place the same value upon cats as rat destroyers as ours do here, and

the investigation which they conduct relating to cats on board vessels is not without its humorous aspect. For instance they ask "Whether any cats are kept and if any, the number, sex and place of birth?" All sorts of complications may arise in attempting to answer the latter question. A Persian cat, I suppose, would still be a Persian although it were born in Hongkong or on the high seas, and the French feline would presumably retain its distinguishing characteristics even if it could not claim "la belle France" as the place of its nativity. Possibly an attempt will be made to insist on birth certificates being produced in each case, though I can fancy an exception might be made in favour of the Manx cat, the absence of whose tail tells its own tale.

The next question on the sheet is "How active are the cats?" And the habitation of the rats? The English is rather quaint, but maskee, we know what the inquirers are trying to elicit. I can quite imagine the cats are fairly active except perhaps after the midday meal when they probably enjoy a siesta. A dog in their midst might also have some bearing on their movements but apparently that has not entered into the calculations of the inquiring authorities who are only concerned with cats and rats.

The Chinese in Hongkong have no luck. The innocent looking bagatelle table, on which one could have a mild flutter for two cents in the hope of catching a small prize, has come under the ban of the law, and a popular resort is now abolished. It is hard lines, coming so soon after the Races which had whetted the public appetite for a gamble.

The "stove pipe" which is only seen in Hongkong at weddings or royal visits is apparently growing in popular estimation in Japan. This weakness of the islanders for the western tile has moved a Japanese journal to write the following in English: "The silk hat is now an inevitable and laughter-provoking feature of a public function in this country. In joy or sorrow, at a garden party or a funeral service, on the platform of a station or the pier of a harbour, go where you will, you are sure to meet some Japanese swells strutting about with tall silk hats on their heads. It is really a sight which cannot fail to cause merriment even to the most pessimistic of men. As a rule the Japanese is of a low stature and the tall silk hat fits him very ill. Besides, the head-gear in question worn by our smart set is of all sorts and conditions. Hence on a public occasion, when these hats predominate, the sight they present is ludicrous in the extreme. Why our countrymen, who are famous for their artistic taste, should have come to adopt this ill-proportioned hat is past our comprehension. It is to be hoped that it will soon go out of fashion, as we are afraid that foreign visitors to this country will get an unfavourable and wrong impression of our people because of this objectionable head-gear. We say this in all seriousness, for a Japanese wearing a silk-hat impresses the beholder as a good representation of superficial civilisation. Even in England, we learn from the *Manchester Guardian*, the silk hat is fast disappearing. From the same paper we also learn that since the Russo-Japanese war this country has been one of the best customers of English makers of the silk-hat. We are almost inclined to think that the craze for the silk-hat among our people is one of the attendant evils of war."

We are reminded of the happy days of boyhood with their somewhat limited finances when we read that a Dover vicar has been attempting to keep buttons out of church collections by using plates instead of bags for taking the offertories. The good man says that it had a good effect in stirring the generosity of the congregation. Maybe. I can understand the small boy being compelled to sadly part with the copper which had been entrusted to him for the collection and discarding the buttons which hitherto enabled him to keep up appearances in church and to subsequently enjoy the succulent delights obtained from the confectioner; but I am afraid the mean man who adopted the juvenile subterfuge would be tempted to stay away from church rather than contribute to the collection in the coin of the realm. Thus the

problem of non-church-going would be intensified, and where the matter would end goodness only knows. Besides, why should parsons seek to make a voluntary offering partake of the nature of an obligation? If the sermon or the service is not worth a ha'penny why should a man be compelled to pay any more for it? To do so is to interfere with the liberty of the subject. It is an attempt to introduce a form of protection in a free trade country.

RODERICK RANDOM.

HONGKONG.

The Bandmann Comedy Company has paid a return visit to the Colony after an absence of two months, and concluded a six nights engagement last night.

The *Gazette* announces that His Majesty the King has been pleased to approve the re-appointment of the Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk, C.M.G., to be an unofficial member of the Legislative Council for a further period of six years.

The ninth case of plague in the Colony since the 1st of January was notified on Mar. 4. This case, like most of the others, was from Kowloon City. No case has yet occurred in the city of Victoria.

Lady Lugard continues to make slow progress towards recovery from her very serious illness, but as her ladyship is too weak yet to walk even across her room, the date of her departure for England has not yet been definitely settled.

A seaman who stopped a tram car by the novel method of pulling the motor man's queue instead of the bell rope, appeared before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy on the 2nd inst. on a charge of assault, and was fined \$15.

For the first time in many months the stocks were utilised again on the 1st inst. A native who appeared before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy on a charge of returning from banishment was sentenced to six months' imprisonment and three hours' stocks.

Five coolies appeared before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy on the 3rd inst. on a charge of cutting down trees on Crown land at Pokfulam. The first three defendants were found guilty, and each was sentenced to three months' imprisonment. The other two defendants were discharged.

Before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy on Mar. 3 the case concluded in which the cook of the steamer *Manila* was charged with secreting a quantity of opium on board. His Worship held the offence proved, and ordered the defendant to pay a fine of \$500, the alternative being six months' imprisonment.

It has been decided by Mr. J. H. Kemp, before whom the cases were brought at the Magistracy, that the spring bagatelle tables which have become fairly numerous in the city of late come under the definition of a lottery. Nominal fines of five dollars each were imposed on the defendants.

A seaman on the s.s. *Kaifong* was charged before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy on the 1st inst. with being in unlawful possession of eleven taels of opium, and with being on board the steamer without permission. On the first charge he was fined \$25, and on the second \$10. In another case before the same magistrate the cook of the steamer *Manila* was arraigned on a charge of having secreted 249 taels of opium in the store room. He pleaded not guilty and the case was remanded, defendant being admitted to bail in the sum of \$200.

A case came before Commander Basil R. H. Taylor, R.N., at the Marine Magistrate's Court on Mar. 1 in which Mr. E. V. Monk, of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, proceeded against Captain Roza of the Portuguese steamer *Sui Cheong* for lying alongside the east side of the Kiu Hing wharf, and overlapping the wharf by 60 to 70 feet, in such a manner as to prevent the free access of the British steamer *Sanui*, to the Yun On wharf. Prosecutor informed the Court that he, personally, knew nothing about the matter, and the defendant was discharged.

The marriage which was to have taken place on the 1st inst. between Mr. G. G. S. Forsyth, of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, and Miss M. E. Moir, of the Government Hospitals, was unavoidably postponed through the regrettable indisposition of the bride.

Since the passing of the Spitting Ordinance the Magistracy has been provided with two apologies for spittoons. These are shallow, open tins containing a solution of Jeyes' fluid and are secured to the pillars of the verandah by chains. They are by no means ornamental, but rather they are likely to make all who see them violently unwell. It would surely have been cheaper in the long run for whoever is responsible to have furnished a more durable article and one with more covering.

THE CHINESE REPRESENTATION ON THE SANITARY BOARD.

The announcement that Messrs. Lau Chupak and Fung Wah-chun have definitely declined to serve another term on the Sanitary Board has set speculation going in Chinese circles as the time approaches for the Government to nominate new members to fill the vacancies thereby caused. Besides those which have already been mentioned in the *Daily Press*, we learn that the qualifications of two other Chinese gentlemen are being favourably discussed, viz.: Mr. Lau Yau-pau, the Manager of the Aberdeen Paper Mills, and Mr. C. H. Lee, the Secretary of W. S. Bailey & Co., both of whom, in addition to their knowledge of matters affecting the general interests of the Chinese community, are in intimate touch with labour conditions in the field of Engineering and Manufacturing. There is no doubt that upon an ample supply of skilled and unskilled labour depend the success of Hongkong as an industrial centre, and the changing conditions before the Colony would make it appear desirable that at least one of the Chinese representatives on the Board should be fully acquainted with the needs of this necessary element of our population. Not being direct ratepayers, they, nevertheless, contribute substantially to the revenue and prosperity of Hongkong.

Messrs. Lau and Lee have had distinguished careers at Queen's College and are known to be close students of public affairs, interested in the progressive development of Sanitation and the wise application of Sanitary laws; they are fluent speakers in English and either gentleman should prove well able to effectively represent the Chinese point of view at Sanitary Board meetings alike to the satisfaction of their fellow citizens and the benefit of the Colony.

LAUNCH AT KOWLOON.

The tenth shallow-draft vessel built for the Imperial Chinese Navy by Messrs. W. S. Bailey & Co., Ltd., was on Mar. 4 duly completed when Admiral Li Chun and his staff took over the motor boat *Tin On* from the builders yard in Kowloon Bay.

The *Tin On* is a teakwood vessel 83 feet in length fitted with twin kerosine Gardner motors of one hundred horse power. She has two decks, the lower deck comprising saloon and two staterooms, motor space, pantry with cooking range, native and European gallery and crew's quarters. On the upper deck is fitted the Admiral's state-room with bath and lavatory and the captain and officers' rooms and servants quarters.

Electric lights, bells and electric fans are fitted throughout the vessel and these with the bedding, cutlery, crockery and electro plate are supplied by the builders of the very highest class. The side light and masthead lights of the vessel are also electric.

The forward part of the upper deck is fitted with a dining table, having electric light clusters overhead and is intended for the entertainment of the Admiral's guests in the summer.

The *Tin On* will be mounted with four quick firing guns and will carry a crew of twenty five men. On the official trial which was attended by His Excellency the Admiral, the vessel attained a speed of 19½ statute miles per hour on a draft of twenty four inches of water.

SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 2nd inst. at the Board Room. Mr. R. O. Hutcheson presided, and there were present Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, C.M.G., (Vice President) Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett, Hon. Mr. Irving, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Dr. G. H. H. Fitzwilliams, Dr. Pearse (Medical Officer of Health) Dr. McFarlane (Assistant Medical Officer of Health) and Mr. A. Gibson (Secretary).

DISCIPLINE OF THE DEPARTMENT.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY wrote:—
Sir, I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 258 of the 5th instant, in which you ask for instruction as to the procedure which should regulate the enforcement of disciplinary measures in your department.

2. The policy of this Government in the matter was clearly expressed by His Excellency the Governor in his speech introducing the the Public Health and Buildings Amendment Ordinance of 1908. His Excellency said "The working head of the department must, in my opinion, be given full powers on discipline and control of the day to day routine of the department," and in other passages he emphasised the opinion that subordinate officers appointed by the Crown could be dealt with by the Government as regards punishment or discharge, e.g., in minor matters by the head of the department as the representative of the Government. "Their rights," to quote His Excellency's words, "are safeguarded to them through the representative of the Crown, with an ultimate right of appeal to the Secretary of State; neither do I think it would be to the benefit of the department to be run as a separate concern from the rest of the Civil Service. You would not get the same class of men, and you would not get the continuity which I consider to be the key to efficiency."

3. In order that the Board might be given full opportunity of knowing what takes place in the department, and of scrutinising, if necessary, and to make recommendations to the Governor-in-Council, the head of the department was instructed to inform the Board of any recommendations he makes for appointment, leave or dismissal of the European staff, and to lay before them any complaint of the public regarding the staff.

4. His Excellency has no desire to restrict the powers of the Board, but for the reasons given in the passages quoted, it is in his opinion necessary that any inspectors and others engaged by Government under the conditions laid down in the Colonial Regulations should be amenable to discipline to the Government; while the Board has every opportunity of stating its views and, if necessary, of informing the Head of the Government that it dissents from the action of the Head of the Department.

5. When the papers concerning a complaint against a member of the staff, together with the head of the department's disposal of it, are laid before the Board, it is in their discretion to deal with the matter as they wish. It may, however, be suggested that they should in the first instance discuss the case confidentially and later, if they desired to give publicity to their views, or to make any recommendation to the Government, they could, if they saw fit, record their views in the printed minutes.

MR. SHELTON HOOPER minuted—I am sure the Board does not desire to have the right to appoint or dismiss any officer of the department, but I certainly think that, as His Excellency the Governor by his instructions ordered all complaints against officers to be laid before the Board, it is clearly within the right of the Board to review all complaints, and any judgment passed thereon by the Head of the Sanitary Department, to do which effectually and judicially, all evidence on which the Head of the Sanitary Department acted should accompany the complaint. The Board then would be in a position to confirm the action taken by the Head of the Sanitary Department, or to recommend His Excellency the Governor to take other steps in the matter. I agree that in the first case the Board should consider the matter confidentially, but this should be after investigation by the Head of the Sanitary Department, and before he has given judgment thereon, otherwise

he would be stultified if the Board differed from him, and he would be placed in a false position, having to give a vote on a question which he had previously dealt with.

Mr. HOOPER—I have nothing to add to what I stated in my minute other than that I wish it to be communicated to His Excellency and to invite an expression of opinion whether it would be in accordance with his wishes that my suggestion should be carried out.

The PRESIDENT—It will be forwarded.

THE QUESTION OF EXHUMATION.

On the subject of the application for permission to exhume a body from Mount Caroline Cemetery, the Head of the Department wrote that the applicant, who was a native of the Tsang Shin district, had come down from the country for the purpose of exhuming his wife's body. He had chosen a "lucky" day for the purpose and came down two days before it to obtain permission. Similar cases were bound to arise, and he recommended that a permanent sub-committee be appointed to grant exhumation permits.

Mr. HOOPER—I am in favour of granting permission to exhume bodies which are to be removed from the colony, provided we have the power to do so. Have the law officers yet given their opinion on the point?

Hon. Mr. HEWETT minuted—We certainly should be informed if we have power to grant such an application.

Dr. FITZWILLIAMS minuted—I agree with Mr. Shelton Hooper.

The PRESIDENT—No reply has yet been received from the Law Officers.

Mr. HOOPER asked that the legal opinion asked for as to their power to grant certificates for exhumation, be laid on the table. Had it been received yet?

The PRESIDENT—I have not yet received the opinion of the law officers of the Crown.

Mr. HOOPER—Until that is done we are not in a position to allow a corpse to be exhumed. I may say that according to a legal opinion I have obtained neither this Board nor any other authority in the colony has power to grant permits for exhumation. That opinion may be taken for what it is worth, but I think the Government should be pressed to reply to the resolution which we sent a month ago.

At the request of the PRESIDENT.

Mr. HOOPER moved that "This Board will feel much obliged if the Government will reply to the resolution which was carried on 2nd February last asking for the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown."

Hon. Mr. HEWETT seconded, and the resolution was agreed.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT wished to know if it was understood no exhumations would be allowed until that opinion was obtained.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, in reply to a question, said he did not mean to say that bodies were being exhumed, but he questioned whether any one had the power to stop it.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT asked if he meant that bodies were being exhumed.

Dr. PEARSE—No.

The PRESIDENT—No person can exhume without the permission of the Sanitary Board.

Mr. HOOPER asked Dr. Pearse if he thought the Board or any officer had power to permit the opening of a grave.

Dr. PEARSE replied that the Board had power to open graves in any authorised cemetery.

Mr. HOOPER—Has any one else?

Dr. PEARSE—Not that I am aware of.

Mr. HOOPER—Therefore it would be illegal so far as you are aware?

Dr. PEARSE—Yes.

SLAUGHTER HOUSE AT SHANKIWAN.

Correspondence was received relative to the erection of a new building for a slaughter house at Shankiwan.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT minuted—I think the Government should erect a slaughter house.

Mr. HOOPER—What would a new slaughter house cost, and what charge would the Government make for its use?

Mr. LAU CHU PAK The place is growing, and a slaughter house is necessary.

The PRESIDENT—The Director of Public Works estimated the cost in 1901 at \$10,000. If we do not now wish to slaughter cattle there a smaller building costing less would probably be sufficient. The charges would be as in the other slaughter houses, 20 cents for a small pig, 40 cents for a large one.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, March 1st.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ
(ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

BANK DRAFTS AND CONTRACTS.

Action was brought by Man Lee Chou and Co. against the International Banking Corporation to recover \$840 amount alleged to be payable under a bank draft dated November 14th 1908.

Mr. Otto Kong Sing represented the plaintiffs, and Mr. C. D. Wilkinson (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for the defendants.

Mr. Kong Sing informed the Court that the plaintiffs were a firm carrying on business here, and on November 14th, 1908, a bank draft was drawn on the bank of Hamilton, Vancouver, payable to Man Lee Chan and Co. through the International Banking Corporation. The first of exchange, was duly received by the Man Lee Chan firm and deposited in their safe. About December 22nd of the same year this draft was stolen. Information was given to the police, and a warrant was issued against the person suspected of having stolen it, together with a further sum of \$8,000. On December 24th the managing partner of the plaintiff firm went to the defendant bank and took them a notice, acting on his solicitor's advice informing them that the draft had been lost, and asking them to stop it until the second of exchange was received.

Mr. Wilkinson—That part is not admitted. I am instructed that no such notice was ever received.

Mr. Kong Sing stated that the notice had been taken to the bank by the managing partners of the plaintiff firm, and had been rejected. On December 29th two of the partners of the firm went to the bank and tendered them a Chinese notice, which was refused. He understood that one of the employees at the bank advised the Man Lee Chan to telegraph to Vancouver, and this was done. On January 5th, on behalf of the plaintiff firm, he wrote to the manager of the International Banking Corporation informing him of the draft being stolen from the premises of the Man Lee Chan, and giving the bank notice to defer payment on presentation. In reply to that letter the International Banking Corporation wrote informing him that without further particulars the draft could not be traced, and that payment could not be stopped without advice from the person by whom the draft was issued. On January 6th the bank paid the first of exchange to some person or persons unknown. Notice was given to the plaintiffs some days afterwards, and later on, in February, the plaintiff firm received the second of exchange for this draft. This was presented for payment, and was endorsed by the bank in red ink, "original paid 6.1.09."

His Lordship—Are all these facts admitted?

Mr. Wilkinson—Not all, but even on those facts I submit that my friend has no case. The action is misconceived. He is unable to show any privity of contract whatsoever between the plaintiffs and the defendants.

Mr. Kong Sing—I submit it is obvious there is a privity of contract. This draft is payable to Man Lee Chan and Co.

His Lordship decided to hear Mr. Wilkinson. Mr. Wilkinson submitted that the drawee of a bill of exchange was under no liability whatsoever to the payee of a bill of exchange until a contract was established between them by the acceptance of the bill. Even if money was specially placed in the hands of the drawee for the purpose of meeting the bill there would be no privity of contract unless some special undertaking was given by the drawee to the payee to pay the amount.

Mr. Kong Sing submitted that the defendants were clearly liable on that point. It was clear in this case that the bank were the acceptors, for they had paid the first of exchange, and converted to their own use monies belonging to the payee.

His Lordship—You say it is the fact of their having paid the first bill that makes them acceptors.

Mr. Kong Sing—Yes, the fact of their having paid the bill is sufficient.

His Lordship reserved his decision.

Tuesday, 2nd March.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE.

EMBEZZLEMENT BY A SERVANT.

Wong Chuen Man pleaded not guilty to three charges of embezzlement preferred against him while in the service of Auguste Raphael Marty on various dates from 7th December last to 20th January, the amounts being \$441.50, \$590.50 and \$280. The Attorney-General, instructed by Mr. Bowley, conducted the prosecution and Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. d'Almada of Messrs. d'Almada and Smith, defended.

The following jury was empanelled: Messrs. E. Gaster, Ed. Howard, A. M. Soares, E. H. Summers, F. Esrom, David Gow and H. E. Desebrock.

The Attorney-General, in presenting the case for the prosecution, stated that Mr. Marty was a merchant who resided at Haiphong and who also carried on business in Hongkong. He owned a line of steamers which ran between the two places, the vessels being mostly employed in bringing up pigs for Chinese dealers. Until recently the business in Hongkong was conducted by Mr. Marty's brother who died on the 23rd January. Mr. Marty employed a compradore, part of whose duty it was to collect the freight earned by these steamers in respect of pigs. Soon after the arrival of the steamer bills were made out and handed to the compradore who distributed them to the Chinese importers, and a few days later the European staff filled up the receipts corresponding to the bills and handed these to the compradore for collection. The money when received was kept by the compradore and used for disbursement and at the end of the year the balance was paid over to Mr. Marty. The defendant was employed as a shroff to collect the freight bills. It was the duty of the shroff to pay over the sums collected by him to the compradore as soon as possible after collection. The system was that the compradore had a book in which he kept entries in Chinese of the imports and the dates of consignment to the dealers, while the shroff on collecting the bills made entries in his book, so that both books should correspond. It had been usual to allow the accounts to stand over for a month or two, according to custom everything must be paid by the end of the Chinese year. In this particular case the books of the Hong Wing Loong showed that the money had been paid to the shroff on the dates mentioned, but when the compradore examined the books on the 20th January he discovered that the defendant had not accounted for those. He spoke to him about it and the defendant went out ostensibly to collect the \$1312, but returned later in the afternoon alleging that he had received the money but had been robbed on the way. Inquiries were made which ended in the defendant being charged with embezzlement. A curious defence was set up before the Magistrate. It was asserted that it was not the duty of the shroff to hand over the money until the end of the year, consequently the demand made to him on the 20th January should not have been made until the next day, and there was therefore no wrongful conversion. The Crown however would prove that the money had been received and not accounted for.

At the close of the case for the Crown, some discussion took place between the Attorney-General and the Chief Justice.

His Lordship remarked that the compradore had admitted that as long as the prisoner paid the money by the end of the Chinese year it did not matter. Could the defendant pay it into the bank?

The Attorney-General—Clearly, I should think.

His Lordship—Then that alters the whole case.

The Attorney-General—Well, my Lord, it establishes a most serious state of things.

His Lordship—If this man could have paid the money into the bank there is no larceny by bailee.

The Attorney-General—The fact that he told the compradore of the collection and the robbery shows that he falsely accounted for the money.

His Lordship—I should put it this way, that his statement shows that the bailment was at an end.

Sir Henry Berkeley, in his address to the jury, described the action of the police in placing that young man under criminal charges as extremely harsh. The defendant was allowed a free hand. He was permitted to keep the money up till a certain time, till the end of the Chinese year. The system was loose from an English point of view; still it was the system in vogue in this place.

The Attorney General said it might be the custom, but it was an extraordinary one that a man in receipt of \$10 a month was allowed to collect sums of \$500 odd and to retain them in his possession for months.

His Lordship—You have put certain evidence in the box, and you cannot criticise that.

The Attorney General—I am merely commenting on the extraordinary arrangement.

His Lordship—But is it your own evidence. You are treating it as hostile evidence.

The Attorney General—No: I am merely criticising the custom in vogue.

His Lordship—You are practically asking the jury not to believe the evidence you have yourself put forward.

Addressing the jury, His Lordship said he did not wish to criticise the police in the least for having taken up this case, because one did not know what was behind it. All he could say was that he did not think it expedient for the police to take every case of embezzlement by a servant merely because of the fact that a crime had been committed. In the Colony in which he was Attorney General for eleven years they made an absolute rule that they would not prosecute on behalf of private individuals unless there were special circumstances or public interests were involved. He could not help thinking that that was a sound rule because if they prosecuted against the wishes of the principal, firm or person involved they were rather apt to get evidence in the box which they did not like, and therefore the Crown was put in the position of criticising its own evidence. On the three charges of embezzlement they would have to acquit the prisoner, as he was the servant of the compradore and not of Mr. Marty. But that did not dispose of the accompanying charges of larceny. The question was whether on the evidence of the compradore, which was evidence put forward by the Crown, prisoner was bound to bring back the actual notes which he received, or whether he was allowed to tamper in any way with them before he paid them over. If he was allowed to put the money in the bank and draw it out at the time when he was bound to account for the money then he would not be guilty of larceny. When he told the compradore that he had not got the money, the bailment came to an end, but it should be remembered that he advanced a story to show that his non-possession of the money was not due to any fraudulent cause. It was for the jury to decide whether they believed the story. If they believed the story they must acquit the prisoner.

The jury who were given questions to answer returned after an absence of thirty minutes, the foreman announcing that they were unanimous in finding on the first question that the defendant was not guilty of larceny as bailee because he was given permission by the compradore to use the money entrusted to him as he wished up to a certain time.

His Lordship—You find him not guilty?

Foreman—Yes.

The prisoner was accordingly discharged.

Wednesday, March 3rd.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE PEAK MURDER.

The two prisoners who were re-arrested in connection with the Peak tragedy were brought before the Court.

The Attorney-General said—Owing to the absence from the Colony of a most important witness for the prosecution who was an eye witness of the affray, the Crown is reluctantly enforced to enter a *nolle prosequi* on the second trial.

His Lordship—The prisoners are discharged. ALLEGED KIDNAPPING.

A Yaumati widow named Chan Sze was arraigned on a charge of kidnapping a child. She pleaded not guilty. The Attorney-General, (Hon. Mr. Rees Davies, K.C.) instructed by Mr. Bowley, prosecuted, prisoner being undefended.

The jury was empanelled as under: Messrs. E. Grimble (foreman), C. H. W. Kew, M. Rahfeck, J. A. Edgar, A. Shaw, A. J. P. Pumfrett, and H. L. W. Korten.

The Attorney-General informed the jury that the prisoner was a widow and she was charged with taking a child, some sixteen months old out of the custody of its guardian, Tsun Luk. This woman Tsun Luk received the child from its mother at Canton to take care of, and on January 9th last she brought the child to Hongkong. In February she was taken ill and needed some one to look after the child. The prisoner was introduced to her, and agreed to take care of the child for \$6 a month. Accordingly the child was handed over to her on February 3rd and Tsun Luk visited the house on several successive days to see how the boy was progressing. On the 8th February the child was not there and when she made inquiries she was told that a man named Ah Yau had taken it out, but though she went there several days later the child was not forthcoming and she gave information to the police with the result that the prisoner was arrested. A curious feature of the case was that the prisoner herself appeared to have complained to the police on February 7th that Ah Yau had taken the child away, "her son" she called him, with her permission to sell him, but he had absconded with the boy. A little girl, a witness for the prosecution would tell the jury that the child was handed to Ah Yau by the prisoner, who told him that he must bring the boy back. Prisoner was committed for trial, but all efforts to trace Ah Yau or to find the child had been without avail. The case for the prosecution was that this woman took from the lawful custody of the guardian this child and was a party with Ah Yau to taking the child away, consequently she brought herself within the meaning of the ordinance in taking the child from the custody of its guardian. The prosecution regarded the case as important, as the man had not been found and presumably was making a profit out of the child.

Evidence was called, and his Lordship addressed the jury, who afterwards retired to consider their verdict. On their return the foreman announced that they found the prisoner not guilty. She was accordingly discharged.

THE CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

THE QUESTION OF OFFICIAL CONTROL.

The Nine Charitable Institutions, the Canton General Chamber of Commerce and the 72 Trades Guild have telegraphed the following petition to His Excellency Chang Chi Tung, Chief Superintendent of the Canton-Hankow Railway of the three Provinces:—

"Your Excellency has delegated Taotai Wong Ping Yan to superintend the construction of the Kwangtung section of the Canton-Hankow Railway and to reside permanently in Canton. Some time ago we received a cablegram from your Excellency stating that your main object and desire is that the President of the Canton section of the Railway will use his influence to protect the interests of the Railway Company and that he will be held responsible for a proper exercise of his discretion in employing men to deal with the financial affairs of the Company. Your Excellency cannot be aware of the innumerable troubles and difficulties in regard to the construction of the railway in this province which we are now compelled to explain fully to you. When the Railway was redeemed from the American Development Company it was agreed that the gentry and the merchants were to construct it. This was entirely due to your efforts and we are extremely thankful to you for your kindness. We undertook the responsibility of constructing

the Kwangtung section of the railway, and consequently an Imperial Edict was issued sanctioning this arrangement. The terms and conditions for this section are quite different from those of Hupeh and Hunan. After the Edict was issued the different charitable Institutions started to collect the call due on the first instalment of the shares on condition that if the merchants, proved incapable of constructing the railway themselves, or if they should fail to construct the railway they (the charitable Institutions) would refund the monies paid to the Company by the shareholders. These conditions were embodied in a memorial to the Throne and officially recorded in Peking. The dissatisfaction formerly created over the construction of this railway was mainly due to the officials having a hand in the management of affairs. Now that your Excellency has authorised the establishment of a Government Bureau to superintend the construction of the Railway, it will be extremely difficult to allay the suspicions of the public, and we fear we shall not be able to collect the third instalment of the shares. Moreover there are many shareholders who seize this as a pretext for demanding the return of their money, and trouble may therefore ensue.

"The people moreover will lose confidence in the charitable Institutions who cannot take the responsibility of refunding such a huge sum of money. All this is contrary to what has been agreed upon between the merchants and the Government. This section is the most important part of the Canton-Hankow Railway. Both Chinese and Foreigners have had their attention drawn to this matter. Now that it is in full operation a change is detrimental and the people cannot consent to a change. Besides telegraphing this to your Excellency, the 72 Guilds and the Charitable Institutions have held a meeting and addressed a petition to the Viceroy of Canton bearing the chops of all the signatories. With regard to the management of the Company it is difficult to please everybody. If there is a dishonest servant in the Company let the proof be produced and he will be immediately dismissed and replaced by another man appointed by the shareholders. But for small faults the Company's interests should not be neglected. This is a joint petition sent by the signatories for your personal consideration and they hope you will see your way to abolish this Superintending Bureau and the whole province will be grateful to you for ever."

TURBULENT YAUMATI.

HOUSEBREAKERS STILL ACTIVE.

The police of Yaumati are to be congratulated on the activity displayed in the capture of three housebreakers who were charged before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy on Mar. 3. There has been a lull in the robbery business on the other side of the water since the busy time after Chinese New Year, probably due to the special vigilance of the police, and, while this continues, housebreakers are not likely to have a pleasant time.

In one of the cases that his Worship heard yesterday the two defendants were caught in the act of looting a store in Reclamation Street. They had gained admission to the shop by removing part of the lining of a flight of stairs, and had already made a large bundle of provisions to walk off with when they were surprised by the police. After hearing the evidence Mr. Kemp sentenced each of the defendants to two months' imprisonment with hard labour.

In the other case the accused forced the door of the residence of a Japanese at 145, Macdonnell Road, while the inmates of the house were absent, gathered together everything of value on the premises, and departed. When Chinese detective 203 stopped him in the street later and questioned him the defendant told him that he was taking the bundle to his master at Tsimchatsoi. The detective, not being altogether satisfied with the story, took the defendant to the Yaumati police station, and there he was detained pending inquiries. He had not been long in the police quarters when the Japanese from whom the goods were stolen called to report his loss, and identified the bundle of goods as his property. His Worship found the defendant guilty, and sentenced him to six months' imprisonment with hard labour.

STRANGE DEATH AT YAUMATI.

CORONER'S INQUIRY.

At the Magistracy on the 4th inst. before Mr. J. H. Kemp sitting as coroner, and a jury composed of Messrs J. Lysaught, J. Lockhead and L. E. Lammert, an inquiry was held into the circumstances of the death of a Chinese male named Chan Tang, who died on January 30th or 31st.

The Coroner informed the jury that the cause of death in this case was certified by the medical officer in charge of the mortuary to be pneumonia, but as the relatives appeared to think that deceased died of poisoning the stomach contents were taken to the Government Analyst for examination. In them Mr. Browne found a certain amount of phosphorus and a certain amount of morphine. The jury had to come to the conclusion whether the cause of death was poisoning or pneumonia. The case was an important one because the Sanitary Department were now distributing rat poison in the shape of balls containing a certain amount of phosphorus, and it was suggested that the deceased might have taken some of this rat poison. The Coroner called the inquiry to satisfy the relatives of the deceased, and to draw attention to the danger of these rat poison balls.

An uncle of deceased spoke to finding the subject of this inquiry groaning as if in great pain on the night of January 30th. The inmates of the house thought he had taken opium and prepared alum water for him to drink.

In reply to a question from Dr. McFarlane, witness said the man was unconscious when they gave him the alum water.

The partner of deceased was the next witness. He said their business was not a prosperous one, but deceased had not complained about financial difficulties. He did not take opium.

The Coroner—Had you had any rat poison from the Sanitary Department?

Witness—I did not see any about the shop.

Mr. Frank Browne, Government Analyst, testified to examining the contents of deceased's stomach, and finding therein one sixteenth of a grain of phosphorus and one and one-third grains of morphine and an acid, which showed that deceased took morphine as opium. Each ball of rat poison would contain about one-thirteenth part of a grain of phosphorus. One sixth of a grain of phosphorus had caused death, while a small recorded fatal dose of opium for an adult was four grains. The one and a third grains of morphine which deceased had taken would correspond to about thirteen grains of opium. An average fatal dose of opium for a non smoker would be from four to six grains.

Dr. McFarlane, medical officer in charge of the public mortuary at Kowloon, deposed to making a post mortem examination of deceased and finding the cause of death to be pneumonia.

The Coroner—Do you agree with Mr. Browne's evidence as to fatal doses?

Witness—Yes.

Is it possible, do you think, that he could have taken a large quantity of phosphorus some time previously?—No, I don't think that is possible.

In your opinion there is no evidence that death was caused by phosphorus?—No. It was really difficult to say whether deceased died of pneumonia or opium. The congested lung was in itself sufficient to cause death.

Dr. Macfarlane was understood to say—that he could not say definitely what was the immediate cause of death—opium or pneumonia. There was a smell of opium about the stomach, but that was partly covered by the garlic odour.

By Dr. Atkinson—Why did you send the stomach to the Government Analyst when you noticed opium?—There was no distinctive sign of opium. I knew that phosphorus poisoning had been laid down in the district, and I did not want any doubt left.

Dr. J. M. Atkinson, P.C.M.O., said that opium had certainly a bad effect on pneumonia. It would tend to aggravate it and hasten death. It would take an effect on the lungs almost immediately after taking.

The jury returned a verdict of "Death from pneumonia, hastened by an overdose of opium."

THE SUPPRESSION OF OPIUM SMOKING IN KWANGTUNG.

NEW OPIUM REGULATIONS.

The following is a translation of a notification issued by the Chief Bureau for the Suppression of Opium Smoking in the Kwangtung Province:—

"His Excellency has directed that the Government Institution established some time ago for ascertaining who among the officials smoke opium and to provide for the treatment of such cases be placed under the direction and control of this Bureau which is established for the sole purpose of controlling opium affairs in the whole Province. We have deputed special officials to make inquiries into opium affairs in the Province and have also appointed other officials to make minute investigations. Moreover should any officials, gentry, merchants or any class of people discover any persons whether officials, merchants, or others infringing the regulations enumerated below, he is respectfully requested to report same to this Bureau. A box is placed on the left side of the gate of this Bureau for receiving reports at all times, and investigations will be made on their receipt. Those who send in reports must sign their names as a guarantee of good faith and we undertake not to disclose the names. Those who send in anonymous reports or falsely accuse others will be punished. These steps are taken to collect information for the benefit of the Public. Do not disobey the above instructions."

The following are the regulations:—

(1) We have already prohibited the cultivation of opium in the following Districts and Prefectures in the Kwangtung Province viz: Chew Chow, Hoi Yeong, Tang Hoi and Yew Ping districts, Ka Hing, Shew Chow and Nam Hung Prefectures. Should any person or persons discover opium being cultivated in any other places in the Province the fact should be at once reported so that investigation may be made.

(2) To ascertain the consumption of foreign opium in the Province investigation must start from Canton and then through all the branch Bureaux in the province. An investigation must also be made into the monthly sale by the shops of crude opium and whether any of the shops sell more than is reported, and the shop people will be punished on proof of the allegation being established.

(3) All civil officials from the rank of permanent Taotai downwards and military officials from the rank of Colonel downwards, who are proved to be surreptitiously smoking opium will be punished.

(4) Any person who gives a false name in taking out his license or any person who borrows another person's license to purchase prepared opium will be punished.

(5) All opium dens having been closed by the police, and henceforth found in existence will render the owners liable to punishment.

(6) The selling of opium apparatus is also prohibited. Any shop exhibiting these articles for sale are liable to be punished.

(7) The sale of morphia and the syringes for injecting same is also prohibited. Any person selling opium pills containing morphia will be punished.

THE OPIUM COMMISSION.

The thirteenth Session of the Commission opened at 10.30 a.m. on the 25th ult.

Four Resolutions were submitted by the Chinese Delegation for consideration. Of these one was withdrawn, Mr. Tang Kuo-an expressing himself satisfied with a sympathetic statement made in connexion therewith by the Chief Commissioner for Great Britain, the Right Honourable Sir Cecil Clementi Smith, whose remarks elicited the encomiums of the Chief Commissioner for Japan. The remaining Resolutions were accepted by the Commission after amendments at the suggestion of the French and American Delegations.

This completed the real business of the Commission.

All the Resolutions adopted were handed to a Committee for revision, and were to be presented for final acceptance by the Commission as a whole on the 26th ult.

The fourteenth and final Session of the International Opium Commission took place at the Palace Hotel, Shanghai, on the 26th ult.

The Resolutions which had been already adopted were presented in their revised form by the Committee appointed for the purpose, and were finally passed by the Commission. They will be referred by the various Delegations to their respective Governments, who will decide on their publication as they may see fit.

The full minutes of the proceedings, together with the Reports on the Opium Question, handed in by the various Delegations, will appear later in printed form, and will form a valuable record of the work of the International Opium Commission.

After the Committee on Trade Statistics had handed in their Report, the Right Hon. Sir Cecil Clementi Smith moved that a cordial vote of thanks be offered to the Right Reverend Bishop Brent for the dignity, impartiality, and ability with which he had discharged the duties of President of the International Opium Commission. In replying, the President congratulated the House not only that in the findings reached all the Resolutions were adopted *nem. con.* but that they had not wholly failed in carrying the problem a stage nearer its final solution.

H.E. Tsunejiro Miyaoka, having given expression to the sense of high appreciation in which the Commission held the services rendered by the Secretaries, the proceedings terminated.

THE HONGKONG UNIVERSITY SCHEME.

In the course of an article referring to the efforts which are being made to obtain the endowment fund for the University, the *Singapore Free Press* observes:—On the whole it would not do to build too much upon the prospects of outside help, beyond what very rightly may be expected from the Viceroy of the Southern and Western provinces. Why, however, should not the Government of Hongkong persuade the Secretary of State to sanction the endowment of the University with some areas of Crown land likely to improve in value. Almost every ancient seat of learning or public school or old cathedral or collegiate church has originally drawn some support from pious endowments in real estate. Reference has before this been made to a scheme for tunnel communication below the Peak thus rendering available for European settlement extensive stretches of land on the south or seaward side of the island of Hongkong. Might the Government not consider this idea, and devote a suitable area of Crown land in that district to the endowment of the Hongkong University? Some such course suggests itself to us, because it cannot be an easy thing for a community at any given time to provide the whole of the capital whose interest is to supply the annual maintenance of so important an institution as it is trusted that the Hongkong University may in time become. The Government of Hongkong not only represents the community of to-day but the community of generations to come. And therefore, always subject to the desires of the generous donor, it would seem to be reasonable to discover some mode of distributing the responsibility for the desired endowment over a basis wider than six months of one particular generation. And it is just here that the Government, with the assent of the Secretary of State, can give exactly the help needed by allotting some of such Crown lands as may be available *in perpetuo* as an endowment for the University. Endowment begets endowment, public spirit and generosity forms a strong and a beneficent precedent, and the future may bring forward worthy benefactors to emulate Mr. Mody. The donation of a site is in itself a small thing, although we in this Colony unfortunately have had some reason to entertain painful associations with the word "site." It would be pity if the Government of Hongkong should find itself unable to discover some means of contributing to the endowment of the proposed institution that might gain the approval of the Colonial Office.

COMPANY REPORTS.

THE HONGKONG HOTEL COMPANY,
LIMITED.

The report of this Company states:—
Gentlemen,—In accordance with Section 56 of the Articles of Association, the Directors now beg to submit their report for the half-year ended 31st December, 1908.

ACCOUNTS.

The profit on working account amounted to \$42,461.49 as compared with \$39,292.35 for the corresponding period of 1907, being an increase of \$3,169.14.

The profit and loss account, including the sum of \$14,639.63 brought forward from 30th June, 1908, shows a credit balance of \$54,295.40, which the Directors recommend should be apportioned as follows:—

To pay a dividend of 6 per cent. for the half-year	\$36,000.00
To transfer to repairs and renewals account	10,000.00
To write off furniture and fixtures	6,500.00
To write off electric plant	1,500.00
To carry forward to new account	295.40
	<u>\$54,295.40</u>

DIRECTORS.

Mr. J. W. C. Bonnar has been invited by the Board to act for Mr. E. Osborne, on leave. Mr. Bonnar's appointment requires the shareholders' confirmation.

Mr. W. H. Potts retires by rotation, but offers himself for re-election.

AUDIT.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. H. U. Jeffries and A. R. Lowe, C.A., who offer themselves for re-election.

W. HUTTON POTTS,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 24th February, 1909.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

For the six months ending 31st December, 1908.

Dr.	
To bad debts and refunds	\$725.37
To crown rent	505.92
To rates	2,870.95
To fire insurance	2,948.71
To debenture interest on \$500,000 at 3 per cent.	\$15,000.00
Less returned on debentures held by the Company	2,220.00
	<u>12,720.00</u>
To interest account	7,078.10
To directors' and auditors' fees	3,200.00
To balance, to be appropriated as follows:—	
To pay a dividend of 6 per cent.	\$36,000.00
To transfer to repairs and renewals	10,000.00
To write off furniture and fixtures	6,500.00
To write off electric plant	1,500.00
To carry forward to new account	295.40
	<u>54,295.40</u>
	<u>\$84,344.45</u>

Cr.	
By Balance from 30th June, 1908	\$ 79,639.63
Less dividend at 6 per cent.	\$ 36,000.00
Less transfer to repairs and renewals account	15,000.00
Less transfer to furniture and fixtures account	10,000.00
Less transfer to installation of electric light account	3,500.00

Less transfer to new launch account.	500.00
	<u>65,000.00</u>
	<u>\$ 14,639.63</u>

By rent of shops and offices, old building	\$ 183.33
By rent of shops and offices, new building	4,225.00
By rent of Hotel Mansions	22,575.00
	<u>26,983.33</u>
By Dividends on Shares in Public Companies	176.00
By scrip and transfer fees	4.00
By bad debts recovered	80.00
By profit on hotel working account for the six months ending 31st December, 1908	42,461.49
	<u>\$ 84,344.45</u>

REPAIRS AND RENEWALS ACCOUNT.
For the Six Month ending 31st December, 1908.

Dr.	
To payment on account of repairs and renewals during the half-year ending 31st December, 1908	\$12,028.49
To balance	3,912.09
	<u>\$15,940.58</u>

Cr.	
By balance from 30th June 1908	\$ 940.58
By amount transferred from profit and loss account as recommended in last report	15,000.00
	<u>\$15,940.58</u>

LIABILITIES.	
CAPITAL:—	
12,000 shares at \$50 each (fully paid up)	\$600,000.00
1,000 mortgage debentures (6 per cent.)	\$500,000.00
Less 152 ditto held by the Company	76,000.00
	<u>424,000.00</u>

Reserve fund	648,975.78
Sundry creditors	78,248.77
Unclaimed dividends	1,638.00
Repairs and renewals account, balance as per statement	3,912.09
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (Current Account)	204,820.87
Profit and loss account, balance as per statement	54,925.40
	<u>\$2,015,890.91</u>

ASSETS.	
Value of Marine Lot No. 5 and remaining portion of Marine Lot No. 3 and remaining portion of Marine Lot No. 7, and Buildings thereon, as per last account	\$1,032,80.743
Since expended on alteration and additions to Buildings	9,718.40
	<u>1,092,525.83</u>

Praya Reclamation, Marine Lot No 288, as per last account and Building thereon ("Hotel Mansions")	62,892.63
Rebuilding South Block, payments on account to date	6,328.00
Cost of Three Chinese Houses on Sections B., C., and D. of Inland Lot Not. 60	33,000.90
Cost of Kowloon Farm Lot No. 3 Section A	30,926.90
	<u>1,784,673.61</u>

Furniture and fixtures, as per last account	122,239.80
Less written off, as per last report	10,000.00
	<u>112,239.80</u>
Since added	1,492.90
	<u>113,734.70</u>

Installation of electric light, as per last account	24,000.00
Less written off, as per last report	3,500.00
	<u>20,500.00</u>

Stock of linen, crockery, glassware, etc	34,674.04
Stock of wine, provisions, household sundries, and stationery, as per inventories	22,576.99
Shares in Public Companies	4,371.31
Value of Steam Launch, as per last account	5,000.00
Less written off, as per last report	500.00
	<u>4,500.00</u>
Sundry debtors	26,358.38
Licenses attaching to 1909	2,576.67

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (Unclaimed Dividends account)	1,638.00
Cash in hand	287.21
	<u>\$2,015,890.91</u>

UNION WATERBOAT COMPANY,
LIMITED.

The report of this Company states:—
The General Managers have now the pleasure to submit their annual report and statement of the Company's accounts made up to 31st December, 1908.

The net profits for that period, including \$111.22 brought forward from last account, and after allowing for Consulting Committee and Auditor's fees, depreciation, bad debts and loss on the sale of the old steam launch taken over from the Hongkong Steam Water Boat Co., Ltd., amount to \$29,971.31.

The General Managers recommend the payment of a dividend of 6 per cent., which will absorb \$16,633.80, write off \$13,155.00 from the value of the Waterboats and carry forward a balance of \$172.51 to the new account.

Consulting Committee:—Since the last meeting Mr. P. J. Bisschop resigned his seat on leaving the Colony and Mr. H. J. Van den Bosch and Mr. J. W. C. Bonnar have joined the Committee.

Auditors:—The accounts under review have been audited by Mr. A. O'D. Gourdin.

DODWELL & Co., LTD.,
General Managers.

Hongkong, 12th February, 1909.

Balance Sheet, 31st December, 1908.

LIABILITIES.	
Share Capital.	
Authorised—50,000 shares of \$10 each	\$500,000
Issue—27,723 shares of \$10 each fully paid	\$277,230.00
Sundry creditors	1,898.13
Unclaimed dividends	776.00
Profit and loss account, balance	29,971.31
	<u>\$309,875.44</u>

ASSETS.	
Waterboats as per last account	\$259,616.77
Less amount written off \$13,616.77	
Book value of launch sold	2,835.00
	<u>16,451.77</u>
Pipes and staging as per last account	\$4,000.00
Less amount written off	3,000.00
	<u>1,000.00</u>
Furniture	50.00
Cash in bank and in hand	6,681.95
Hongkong Bank fixed deposit	40,000.00
Hongkong Government deposit	500.00
Sundry debtors	7,980.49
Stock of hose, etc.	250.00
Unexpired licences	2.80
	<u>\$309,875.44</u>

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the Year ending 31st December, 1908.

Dr.	
To Consulting Committee's Fees	\$ 800.00
To Auditor's Fee	100.00
To Depreciation:— Pipes and Staging	\$3,000.00
Stock	250.00
	3,250.00
To Bad Debts	45.00
To Loss on Book value of ... Launch sold	2,257.86
To Balance	29,971.31
	\$36,424.17
Cr.	
By Balance from last ... account	\$ 111.22
By profit on trading for the year	35,024.63
By interest	1,244.32
By transfer fees	44.00
	\$36,424.17

THE HONGKONG AND KOWLOON WHARF AND GODOWN CO., LD.

The report for presentation to shareholders at the twenty-second ordinary annual meeting to be held at the Office of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., on Wednesday, the 10th March, is as follows:—

The Directors beg to submit to shareholders their report with a statement of accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1908.

The profit on working was \$243,713.58, as compared with \$350,290.37 in 1907.

The balance at credit of Profit and Loss account, including \$3,556.81 brought forward from last year, and after deducting Directors' and Auditors' fees and allowing for amounts expended in repairs, dredging and upkeep of property during the year, amounts to \$81,055.67, which it is proposed to appropriate as follows:—

To write off Lighters	50,000.00
To write off Stores	953.11
To carry forward to new account ...	30,102.56

\$81,055.67

Business during the year showed a continual falling off, especially in the storage of yarn and piece goods.

A contract has been made with the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd., for the rebuilding of No. 1 Wharf, which was destroyed in the 1906 typhoon.

A new heavy-weight steam crane was purchased in England, and a second-hand one acquired locally; no additions were made to launches and lighters.

Repairs to the extent of \$26,151.86 were necessitated by the severe typhoon which visited the Colony on the night of July 28th. The repairs caused by the 1906 typhoon were completed during the year.

To meet the requirements of the deep-draught steamers now visiting the port, it was found necessary to dredge round the Wharves. The Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co.'s dredger *Canton River* was employed for the purpose.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. G. H. Medhurst, Mr. A. Fuchs, Mr. A. J. Raymond and Mr. A. G. Wood, resigned on leaving the Colony, while Mr. C. Brodersen was removed by death. Mr. E. A. Hewett also resigned on leaving the Colony, but rejoined the Board on his return. Mr. F. J. Abbott serving during his absence. Mr. E. G. Barrett, Mr. C. S. Gubbay, Mr. J. W. C. Bonnar, Mr. C. Brodersen and Mr. W. Helms joined the Board. These appointments require confirmation.

Mr. E. Shellim and Mr. A. S. D. Cousland retire in rotation, according to the Articles of Association, but being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. O'D. Gourdin have audited the accounts now presented and offer themselves for re-election.

W. J. GRESSON,
Chairman.

Hongkong, 24th February, 1909.

Balance Sheet, 31st December, 1908.

Dr.		LIABILITIES.	
To Capital, 60,000 fully paid up shares at \$50. \$3,000,000			
Less 776 shares not issued	38,800		
	\$2,961,200.00		
To Estate of Sharp (deceased) Mortgage	156,951.00		
To Reserve fund	550,000.00		
To Insurance fund	40,000.00		
To Depreciation and Repairs account	26,806.55		
To Hongkong & Shanghai Bank- ing Corporation	757,936.82		
To Sundry creditors	243,862.97		
To Unclaimed dividends	3,694.50		
To Balance of profit and loss account	81,055.67		
	\$4,821,507.51		

Cr.		ASSETS.	
By value of land and Buildings at Kow- loon as per last account	\$3,218,383.07		
Since expended	3,287.59		
	\$3,221,670.66		

By value of Wharves at Kowloon as per last account	\$235,705.22		
Since expended on new wharves	87,998.09		
	\$323,703.31		

By value of Railways and Rolling stock at Kowloon as per last account	\$91,030.73		
Since expended on new rails, &c.	6,321.14		
	\$97,351.87		

By value of Launches as per last account	70,452.50		
By value of Lighters as per last account	495,182.61		

By value of machin- ery and plant as per last account	\$137,768.48		
Since expended	29,984.26		
	\$167,752.74		

By value sheer legs as per last account	30,000.00		
By value of land and buildings at West Point	263,153.88		

By value of West Point Wharf By sundry debtors	9,092.24		
By H'kong & S'hai Bank (un- claimed dividends)	131,778.41		

By value of coal on hand	3,694.50		
By value of timber, iron and stores on hand	3,709.25		

By 1 share Union Ins. Society of Canton, Ltd.	30,515.54		
	460.00		

\$ 4,821,507.51

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Cr.	
To interest	\$ 62,518.10
To Directors' and Auditors' fees ...	10,500.00
To repairs and renewals	37,280.24
To dredging round wharves	11,218.00
To 1906 typhoon repairs, balance ...	19,544.02
To 1908 typhoon repairs	26,151.86
To balance	81,055.67
	\$248,267.89

Cr.	
By balance from last account	\$ 3,556.81
By nett earnings for 1908	243,713.58
By unclaimed dividends forfeited ...	673.50
By transfer fees	324.00
	\$248,267.89

SHANGHAI DIVIDENDS.

The Directors of the Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co., Ltd., will recommend at the annual meeting the payment of a final dividend of Tls. 6 per share for the year 1908

The Directors of the Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd., will recommend, subject to audit, a final dividend of thirty shillings (30s) per share, at the exchange of 2/3 $\frac{1}{2}$, for the past year.

COMPANY MEETING.

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE CO. LD

THE fortieth ordinary meeting of shareholders in the China Fire Insurance Company, Ltd., was held at the Company's offices, No. 3, Queen's Road Central, on the 4th inst. Mr. E. Shellim presided, and there were also present the Hon. Mr. H. A. W. Slade, Messrs. R. Shewan, J. W. C. Bonnar, G. Friesland, W. Helms and H. A. Siebs (directors), C. Pemberton (secretary), A. Forbes, A. Turner, A. H. M. da Silva, J. M. E. Machado, P. M. Hodgson, S. G. Newall, H. F. Hickman, G. Gazdar and Chan Pat.

The SECRETARY having read the notice calling the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the Directors' report and statement of the Company's accounts for the past year having been in your hands for some time, I will now, subject to your approval, adopt the usual course, and take them as read. Before proceeding with the business of the meeting I have to refer with deep regret to the great loss we sustained in the untimely death of our late Secretary, Mr. G. L. Tomlin. He had been in the service of the Company for just on 23 years, and we are indebted to him for valuable services in the past. I have also to express on behalf of myself and the Board our sorrow at the death of Mr. C. Brodersen, who had only recently joined the Directorate. Turning now to the Accounts, it is pleasant to be able to report that the year 1907 in spite of unusually heavy losses, turned out favourably, leaving us with a balance of \$258,725.68. This enables us to recommend to you a dividend of \$6 and a bonus of \$2 per share, absorbing \$160,000, an addition to Extra Reserve Fund of \$92,570.35, bringing this Fund up to \$438,668.10, and a Bonus to the Staff of \$6,155.33, which, I trust, will meet with your approval. Our Investments in Shares appreciated considerably, and this accounts for the increase of \$18,596.40 shown by Investment Fluctuation Account. The balance at the credit of Working Account 1908 is \$375,341.77, which is a slight increase on that of last year, and the largest sum yet carried forward. Our Premium and Interest Accounts both show satisfactory gains, the former of \$39,335.33 and the latter of \$7,309.17. Fires were very numerous during the year, more especially in Shanghai where the number in European godowns and buildings was particularly noticeable and three large European manufacturing risks were destroyed. While being interested in all these, we were not, I am glad to say, heavily involved in any one. The Company's Surveyors have reported on our advances under Mortgage Loans, and I am happy to inform you that, except in one or two cases which are now being dealt with, the same are satisfactory. During the year we extended the field of our operations to New Zealand, where, working on conservative lines, we hope to do well. Before closing I would like to mention that we as a local Company look for local support and I would especially ask shareholders to bear us in mind when they have insurances to effect. I will now move that the Directors' report and statement of accounts for the year 1908 as presented be adopted. After this has been seconded I shall be pleased to answer any questions that may be put relating to the business before the meeting.

Mr. TURNER—Before seconding the adoption of report I should like to endorse your remarks with regard to our late Secretary. I have known him personally in connection with the Company for 25 years, and I am quite sure that every one connected with the Company will deeply regret his loss. As far as the report is concerned, I think it is a particularly good one, and if this is a specimen of what we can do in bad times, I think shareholders have every reason to congratulate themselves. I beg to second the motion for the adoption of the report with pleasure.

No questions were asked, and the report was adopted *nem. con.*

The appointment of Messrs. J. W. C. Bonnar and H. A. Siebs to the directorate was confirmed on the motion of Mr. FORBES, seconded by Mr. HODGSON.

On the motion of Mr. SILVA seconded by Mr. MACHADO, Messrs. E. Shellim and G. Friesland were re-elected members of the Board of Directors.

Mr. NEWALL moved that Messrs. W. Hutton Potts and A. R. Lowe be re-appointed auditors.

Mr. TURNER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be posted this afternoon. Thank you for your attendance.

ATTEMPTED STEALING IN A JEWELLERS SHOP.

Before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy on Mar. 4 a native was prosecuted on a charge of stealing or attempting to steal a watch chain valued at \$100 from Messrs. G. Falconer and Co., jewellers, Hotel Mansions.

Sergeant Gerrard conducted the case for the prosecution, and Mr. Otto Kong Sing appeared for the defendant.

Mr. T. Meek, Manager of Messrs. Falconer and Co., stated that on Saturday afternoon, the 27th ultimo, the defendant accompanied by another man, entered the shop and asked to see a gold chain. Witness produced three chains one of which defendant picked up and asked its price. Whilst witness was looking at the price, defendant picked up the other two chains. Witness said the price of the chain was \$60. Then defendant pulled a second chain out of his hand and asked the price of that. The third at this time was up his sleeve, but the complainant was watching him and defendant shook it down again.

In cross-examination witness said he was suspicious when he saw the defendant and his friend enter the shop. He watched closely all the time, because the defendant was watching him. Witness did not know whether defendant or his friend had the money to pay for a chain.

Sergeant Gerrard deposed to searching complainant when he was taken to the police station, and finding \$3.31 in his possession.

Mr. Kong Sing submitted that it was no offence to go into a shop to price chains. The evidence was not sufficient for his Worship, as Mr. Meek admitted that he was very suspicious when the man entered the shop.

His Worship was of opinion that there was a *prima facie* case.

Defendant was called and stated that he entered complainant's shop to purchase a watch chain. Several chains were shown him, and defendant asked the price of one, but as complainant replied in English witness did not understand. A Chinese then told him to go away, and he put the chains on the counter, and left. Defendant was a resident of Macao, and was on his way to Shanghai.

In reply to his Worship, defendant said the other man was his cousin, but he did not know where he was to be found. When he came from Macao he stayed at Yaumati for a night.

Mr. Meek, recalled, said he did not remember his interpreter telling the defendant to go away.

His Worship held the defendant guilty, and sentenced him to three months' imprisonment with hard labour.

GAMBLING AT THE RACES.

Private Robinson of "E" Co., The Buffs, again appeared before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy on Mar. 1 on the charge of gambling on the race course, and of causing disorderly behaviour. The defendant, it appears, introduced the game of crown and anchor during the races, a game in which the chances heavily favoured the promoter, and which caused much discontent among the Chinese who were persuaded to try their luck. The police warned a number of the Buffs when they started this game, but eventually found it necessary to take action in order to prevent its introduction at similar gatherings. After hearing the evidence his Worship took into consideration defendant's demeanour and his previous good character. He imposed a fine of \$10, and ordered that the \$14 seized should be confiscated.

THE OLD "HONGKONG REGIMENT."

DEATH OF A WELL-KNOWN OFFICER.

A London correspondent writes:—Hongkong residents who still have a recollection of that fine body of men known in the Army List for some years as the Hongkong Regiment will regret to learn of the death of another of the brilliant young officers who served under Major-General Sir E. Barrow, Colonel H. T. Faithfull, and Major Retallick at Kowloon.

The death occurred at 46 Albany Villas, Hove, of Major E. L. C. Berger, second-in-command, 69th Punjabis, Indian Army, eldest son of Major-General E. A. Berger, late 2nd Lincoln Regiment (10th Foot), on the 22nd January. The deceased officer was only 41 years of age. I have not heard the cause of his death. It is three years or so since I met him in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank's office in Lombard Street. He had just come home or was on the eve of returning to India—I forget which it was,—and as bright and vivacious as ever and looking the picture of health, though he told me he had suffered a good deal from fever up on the Indian frontier. He had not lost his interest in Hongkong affairs, and plied me with numerous questions about Hongkong personages.

It is almost impossible to believe that so many of those young officers have gone the way we all must go some day. I remember their landing from the trooper at Kowloon and marching alongside of their men to the camping ground near Chater's Bungalow. I talked with them on the facilities Hongkong afforded for cricket, football, shooting and other sport. It was a bright day, and Hongkong looked its best; and one could not fail to be struck by the smart, alert, and soldier-like appearance of Barrow's picked company of officers, who were worthy of the men they controlled. One was drowned soon afterwards in the *Bohara*, having been a member of the ill-fated Hongkong cricket team returning from Shanghai. Then young Campbell, whose stylish cricket used to please connoisseurs as they sat in the old Pavilion; and afterwards M'Carthy Ray, who was to serve in two campaigns (the Relief of the Peking Legations, and the Tibet Expedition) before his promising career was cut short. Now it is Berger—one of the merriest, open-hearted, open-handed, and most devoted to his profession you could meet in a long day's journey. There should be many who still remember him in Hongkong and up and down the China Coast, and who will regret to hear of his early death.

I ran against Colonel Dyson, of the Army Pay Department, in the Sports Club the other day. He had come up from Portsmouth to spend a day with a mutual friend. He tells me he still disports himself in the cricket field whenever he gets a chance, and to judge from his appearance I fancy he is good for many runs yet before he sends in his papers as a cricketer and becomes a critical old codger with the usual fund of cricket stories.

THE MANILA EXTRADITION CASE.

The case in which the Philippines Government applied for the extradition to Manila of C. J. Merchant on a charge of larceny as a bailee of jewellery to the value of 650 pesos came on for hearing before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy yesterday.

Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, made the application on behalf of the Philippines Government, and Mr. Leo d'Almada e Castro (of Messrs. Goldring, Barlow and Morrell) appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Bowley put in further depositions which he had received from Manila.

Mr. Almada proceeded to state the facts of the case for the defence when his Worship asked if he intended to call the defendant.

Mr. Almada said he did.

His Worship informed him that the defendant should be called immediately after the closing of the evidence for the prosecution.

Defendant was then called and stated that in 1890 he had adopted the name of C. J. Merchant. Fourteen years ago defendant was employed in Hongkong as Mr. Ruttonjee's

assistant. He started business at Manila some time in the beginning of 1908 with a capital of 3,000 pesos. The firm he started, the Anglo-American stores, dealt in first and second hand furniture and did commission business. The business was not a prosperous one, and witness had to close both his shops. After this he undertook any commission business which came into his hands for a living. The complainant asked him if he had any carriages for sale, and he said he had two. She said she wanted one, and he sold her a four wheeled victoria for 120 pesos. The complainant took him three small diamond rings and asked him to receive them as a deposit for the carriage. He agreed, and gave her a receipt for the rings. Then the complainant wanted to buy a piano for her daughter, and witness took her to three different places. She selected one which cost 650 pesos, and told witness to arrange for the purchase, which he subsequently did. He was told he would have to pay 100 pesos in advance and 25 pesos monthly until the amount was paid. Defendant informed complainant, who told him she had no money, but he held her three diamond rings which were worth 200 pesos. He could pay the amount and she would repay him later. At the time of the negotiations about the piano the complainant owed him 200 pesos. This was in September, and she promised to pay in October. On that month witness asked for the money, but complainant said the American fleet had not landed as was expected. As she did not do any business with the carriage she asked him to wait till Christmas. He again applied for payment at Christmas, and told her if she did not pay he would sell the rings and sue her for the difference. She promised to pay in a few days. On the afternoon of January 22 he went to her place and demanded the money, telling her he was coming to Hongkong for his health, and to do a little business. She handed him a bag containing a pair of earrings and a ring, and asked him to receive them as a deposit of 400 pesos. Defendant said he did not know what the jewellery was worth, but he wanted his money. On the following morning witness accompanied complainant to a pawnbroker's, who offered her 250 pesos for her jewellery, but she declined to take it, and refused other offers. On January 25th he again demanded his money and complainant handed him her jewellery and said he could pawn it for 300 pesos. Defendant pawned the jewellery on February 3rd, and informed complainant, who said "All right." Defendant called on complainant twice afterwards, but as she was out he wrote to her daughter stating that he was leaving Manila for a few days. He had not left altogether.

Cross-examined, defendant said he would return to Manila after a few days' rest. He was not prepared to return by the s.s. *Rubi* on Friday.

After questioning the defendant further, Mr. Bowley said he thought it was only wasting the time of the Court to proceed further with the case, as there was a direct conflict of evidence.

Mr. H. Ruttonjee was then called and stated that defendant, who had been in his employ some fifteen years ago, was an honest man.

Mr. Bowley—Didn't you tell Sergeant Wilden, in the presence of Sergeant eveney that the defendant was a man of no character?

Witness—Oh, no.

His Worship committed the defendant to jail to await the order of His Excellency the Governor.

HONGKONG OPIUM DIVANS (CLOSED).

On Mar. 1st twenty-six of the opium divans in Hongkong were closed. This is no new measure but merely the arrangement arrived at last year between the Hongkong Government and the Opium Farmer coming into effect. Consequent on the order issued by the Imperial Government last year, which caused so much consternation locally, the Colonial Government took steps towards giving effect to the instructions received and negotiations were opened with the Opium Farmer which ended in a compromise being made, the agreement to close 26 houses during this year. When the Opium Farmer's contract expires on the 28th February next the whole question will probably be considered afresh.

THE CANTON RIVER COLLISION CASE.

TEXT OF THE JUDGMENT.

Mr. Justice Bourne of H.B.M.'s Supreme Court for China recently came to Canton to try an action brought by the owners of the junk *Man On* against the owners of the steamship *Nan-chang* Captain R. Archibald, master of the mail steamship *Empress of China* assisted the Court as Nautical Assessor. Mr Loftus Jones of Shanghai appeared on behalf of the plaintiffs and Mr H. J. Gedge, of Messrs Johnson, Stokes and Masters, appeared for the defendants.

We have already announced that a decision has been rendered in favour of the plaintiffs. The text of the Judgment, which was delivered in Shanghai on the 26th ult. is as follows:—

This action was heard at Canton on the 8th, 9th and 10th February, 1909, on the plaintiff's petition, there being by consent no answer.

The *Man On* is a Chinese owned junk of 5000 piculs carrying capacity, and the *Nanchang* a British-owned twin-screw steamship of 1044 tons net. The junk was sailing down the Canton River from Canton to Hongkong, and the steamer going up, when they collided at a point between Amhurst Light and Second-bar creek, with the result that the junk sank. The junk alleges that the collision was due entirely to the negligence of those on board the steamer and sues for damages accordingly.

The two agree that the collision happened about 1.30 to 1.45 a.m. on 12th November, 1908; that the wind was N. to N.N.E. a moderate breeze; that the night was fine and clear with bright moonlight; and that the tide was flood.

The junk's case is that she was under all plain sail trimmed to keep her along the East bank going at the rate of 10 to 11 li an hour (say $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles) over the ground, that she was carrying masthead and capstan lights burning brightly and that a good lookout was being kept. When at a point N. of the Second-bar Creek she was at a distance of about 14 to 15 li (say five miles) the masthead light of a steamship which proved to be the *Nanchang* bearing about two points on her starboard bow. There was some discussion at the bar as to what two points on the Chinese compass meant, but this is immaterial for it clearly appeared in evidence that the navigators of the junk know nothing about points and in talking about points were explaining *ignotum per ignotum*. When about eight li distant the junk made out the green light of the *Nanchang*, which continued to approach at a rapid pace. The junk was kept on the same course with sails set as aforesaid. She waved her capstan light on her starboard side, but the steamer continued to approach rapidly and when close to her apparently changed her course to starboard and struck with her stem the starboard quarter of the junk abaft the main mast and did her so much harm that she shortly afterwards sank. The junk and the steamer were caught together for five minutes.

The case for the steamship is that she was steering N. $3/4$ E, when at Blake Point she changed her course to N. by W. $1/4$ W. being about $1/4$ mile from the bank on her starboard side of the channel. Before she got to the mouth of the Creek midway between Blake Point and Amhurst Light, she changed her course to N. W. by W. keeping on that course for half a mile when she changed to N.N.W., and kept on this course till she reached Amhurst Light which she passed at a distance of about half a mile. She first saw the masthead light of the junk half a point on her starboard side at a distance of $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, when on the N.N.W. course. She was going at a speed of $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles an hour and with a tide of about one mile an hour, over the ground. At Amhurst Light she changed her course to N., the junk being then about a mile off $1\frac{1}{2}$ point on her port bow. She kept on this course for four minutes before the collision, say $\frac{3}{4}$ mile. While she was on the N. course, the junk being on her port side at a distance of about her ship's length, the junk crossed her bows. The steamer blew two short blasts, put her helm hard a starboard and the port side engine full speed astern, but she could not avoid a collision and struck the junk on the starboard side aft of midships at an angle of

about 15 degrees. The junk was always on her port side after the steamer changed her course to above. After the collision the steamer anchored, lowered a boat and brought off the crew of the junk so that no lives were lost.

On these two versions of the facts there is only one substantial point of difference, namely whether the junk crossed the steamer's bows? That is the main issue. It was of course the steamer's duty to get out of the way of the junk, and the steamer must therefore be presumed to blame unless she shows that the collision was due to such conduct of the junk as to render it impossible for the steamer by the exercise of ordinary capable seamanship to avoid the collision. The junk says she never saw the steamer's red light: this Captain Archibald—an Officer of long experience and high character, on whom the parties agreed as Assessor—says he cannot believe, nor can he believe that the ships were caught together for anything like five minutes. On all the evidence and particularly from the position of the wreck, he thinks the collision happened much where Captain Harris, a witness for the junk, put it, a quarter of a mile or rather more above Amhurst Light but further out in the steam—say a quarter of a mile from the left bank, because on the flood tide there would be an indraught at the Second-bar Creek as soon as the creek opened out which would tend to float the wreck where she was found, i.e., on the lower bank of the creek. The junk says that she was coming down under the left bank with the steamer on her starboard bow and did not change her course before the collision. Now how does this accord with inherent probability? On this hypothesis, the steamer after passing Amhurst Light must always have had the junk well on her starboard bow and must have run into her without any reason that can be thought of, for she had the whole river open to her on her port side. The steamer could only have done this if she had become unmanageable or if her look-out had been drunk or asleep. But there is no evidence at all pointing in that direction: indeed I think the way she was handled after the collision makes such a supposition impossible for the manoeuvres of getting clear of the junk, turning and anchoring was well executed, and the Chief Officer, who was on the bridge at the time of the collision, went himself promptly off in a boat and rescued the junk's crew. On the other hand the steamer's version accords with inherent probabilities; she says that on her course from Amhurst Light she had the junk on her port bow and she intended to pass her port to port, that she was in a safe position because if the junk had kept her course they would have passed with a ship's length between them: in these circumstances when a ship's length off, the junk suddenly changed her course to port and came across her bows. A probable reason for this manoeuvre on the part of the junk is not far to seek: Chao Tai the laodah in charge said: "Every time I meet a steamer I keep close to bank." He may have found himself rather further out than he expected or the steamer further in and have gone across the steamer's bows in order to get into what he thought his right position. The wind would have served him without touching his sails. He may have miscalculated the steamer's speed. She was going full speed with the tide, and the bright moon—always a treacherous light—may have caused him to misjudge her position. Again the weight of evidence is greatly in favour of the steamer's version. For the steamer we had a clear and consistent account from the Chinese Pilot in charge, evidently an experienced and competent man; from the Chief Officer who holds an extra-Master's Certificate who was on the bridge and who telegraphed to reverse the port engine; from the Chinese Quarter-master at the wheel; from the lookout-man forward; and from the Engineer who produced his log showing that he reversed the port engine. If we believe that the junk's story we must believe that the steamer's helm was never starboarded and the port engine never put full speed astern, and that the witness called for the steamer were guilty of perjury and conspiracy: if this had been so I think one or more of them must have broken down under cross-examination. It was suggested by the junk that the order to go astern with the port engine was given after the collision in order to get clear, but Captain Archibald advises

me that this would not have been the appropriate manoeuvre but that the star-board engine would also in that case have been stopped or reversed. For the junk, we had the evidence of two steermen, a lookout-man forward, and a man whose duty it was to look out aft. Thus both the weight of evidence and inherent probability are in favour of the steamer's version. I have no doubt and Captain Archibald agrees with me that the junk caused the collision by rashly crossing the bows of the steamer.

I must next enquire whether the steamer is also to blame. I find on the evidence that the steamer was keeping a good lookout. Captain Archibald thinks she was not going too fast and that there was no reason why she should not have been going full speed, there not being many junks about up. (The "Jesmond" and the "Earl of Elgin" L.R.A. P.C.A. p. 7.) He thinks there was no risk of collision until the junk suddenly changed her course and that then a collision was almost inevitable. He thinks that the steamer did all that could be expected of capable navigators to avoid the collision; although he thinks that she might possibly have gone clear by putting her helm hard to port and reversing the star-board engine, but that this is not a manoeuvre to be reasonably expected from a seaman of competent skill and experience, who will ordinarily take the safe course of going under the stern of the other ship when there is danger of collision.

I therefore hold the junk solely to blame and give judgment for defendants with costs.

I wish to add that it would be a great benefit to junk masters on crowded waterways much frequented by both steamers and junks, if they had translated for them the more necessary of the Regulations for preventing collisions at sea. Neither of the loadahs of this junk knew the meaning of one short blast from a steamer. Captain Archibald suggests that junks ought to be induced to carry two white lights, a higher one on the aftermast and a lower one on foremast as most steamers now do. The account of the collision entered in the steamer's dock log was very insufficient; and such a lack of detail would certainly have told against her in a doubtful case.

THE HONGKONG PERJURY APPEAL.

FULL COURT DECISION REVERSED.

Messrs. Brutton and Hett, the solicitors for the appellants in the perjury case arising out of the bankruptcy proceedings in connection with the Lai Hing Bank, have been telegraphically informed that the Privy Council has upheld the appeal and reversed the decision of the Full Court. The proceedings commenced in 1905, and the perjury was alleged to have been committed on the hearing of the trial of an issue to decide whether Wong Ka Cheun (since dead) was a partner in the Lai Hing firm at the time of its bankruptcy. Not only was it decided that Wong Ka Cheun was not a partner, but the Chief Justice held that the witnesses who gave evidence against Wong Ka Cheun were guilty of perjury and committed them to prison for three months straightway, with the exception of one who had left the Court before the issue was decided. These men were prominent Chinese merchants, and their summary arrest created no little sensation in the community. The Full Court was moved and the men were liberated after serving a fortnight, but the appeal went against the appellants, who, however, obtained leave to take it to the Privy Council. As already reported in the *Daily Press* a few days ago, the case came before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council on February 3rd, when Lord Macnaghten, Lord Atkinson, Lord Collins and Sir Arthur Wilson heard the appeal. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., appeared for the appellants, there being no appearance for the other side. Judgment was then reserved, but it has now been delivered, to the effect already stated.

The names of the Chinese merchants are: Chan Hang Kin, Chan Yam, Tsang Hang Wan, Sai Ho, Lau Sing Ki, Chu Kai Un, and Ng Lu Ting.

A Japanese newspaper published at Dalny understands that Messrs. Butterfield and Swire intend to open a branch in that port with Mr. A.T. Atway in charge.

THE MURDER OF MR. BROOKE.

The Shanghai correspondent of the *Kölnische Zeitung* has furnished to the *N.-C. Daily News* the following account of the murder of Mr. J. W. Brooke last January by the Lolos:—

Mr. Brooke was travelling through Szechuan with the intention of penetrating into Tibet and Burma. He was accompanied by a Mr. Myers who had joined him from Tientsin. After a long tour in South-west Szechuan the two travellers arrived at Ningyuanfu where they intended to prepare for a journey towards Assam. The route has been often attempted before, but always in vain, the last traveller being the Duke of Orleans who died of fever in 1895. While preparations were being made at Ningyuanfu, Mr. Brooke suddenly left his companion in order, as he said, to take photographs in the neighbourhood. A few Chinese coolies only accompanied him together with a cook who acted as interpreter, and without saying a word to the missionaries or Chinese authorities he started off into the territory belonging to the independent Lolos. No doubt, if he had revealed his intention, an attempt would have been made to dissuade him, while the Chinese most probably would have prevented him from starting. It would be almost impossible to imagine a rasher undertaking than to start off in that manner without any preparations. Mr. Brooke's tragic end, it has to be admitted, was due to his own fault, and no one beyond his actual murderers can bear the least responsibility. The Lolos are a wild, savage tribe, completely independent of the Chinese Government, and inhabiting the mountainous country of the Taliangshan between the Yangtze in the south and that river's tributary, the Tschientsiang in the north-west. The Chinese have no influence on these savages and no soldier or official would dare to enter their territory. Only a few Chinese merchants with passports are permitted for commercial purposes to enter Lolo-land, as the Lolos are dependent on the Chinese for salt and tobacco.

Moreover, for probably a century, a species of guerilla warfare has been carried on between the Chinese and Lolos, victory inclining now to one side now to another. At the present moment a force, it is alleged of five thousand men, is operating under the order of the Viceroy Chao Erh-sen in Lolo territory with the object of raising an exceptionally heavy contribution and consequently feeling runs high in this district. How bitter the feeling is may be judged from this fearful cruelty perpetrated on both sides. From time to time the Lolos fall upon neighbouring Chinese villages and kill the inhabitants, with the exception of the younger and stronger people of both sexes, whom they employ for the most menial purposes, and house them like cattle. On the occasion of the recent capture of a village all the inhabitants were driven with whips over a field of thorns; those who stopped in the middle were killed and only those who reached the other side were carried off as being suitable for slaves. Needless to say, the Chinese indulge in equally abominable acts towards the Lolos taken prisoners. The missionaries of Ningyuanfu, who witnessed the incident state, that on the occasion of a Chinese force taking the field a captured Lolo was tied to a stake and officers and men, one after another, ran their swords into him and finally dipped their banners, weapons, etc., into the blood of their victim.

It has been possible to follow the journey of Mr. Brooke from Ningyuanfu for fourteen days. The country consists of number of independent districts each under a chief. In order to pass through each district the traveller has to carry on negotiations with the chieftain, give him presents and occasionally leave hostages. Mr. Brooke received permission to continue his journey and his relations with the savages seem to have been very friendly. The only drawback was that the jealousy of the people caused them to keep a sharp look-out that no other tribe received more presents than they did, with the result that finally, when Brooke had reached the territory of the eighth or ninth chieftain, he found himself at the end of his resources. This chief was willing to give him a passage through the territory, if he would hand over his

rifle; but Brooke refused as he had only his revolver besides this rifle. On various pretexts he was detained until the incident arose which led his death. The chief, who was drunk at the time, entered his tent and seized his rifle and Brooke, unfortunately, struck him. A blow amongst the Lolos is an insult that can be wiped out only with blood and Brooke was only able to defend himself for a short while against the chief's retinue. He tried to make good his escape, but was overtaken and killed and the same fate overtook the whole of his Chinese following.

It has only to be added that although the Chinese authorities do not accept responsibility for the incident, the Viceroy Chao Erh-sen is anxious to seize the opportunity to bring the Lolos to book. His application, however, for men and money has been refused and there is little chance of any action being taken until the Chinese are in a stronger position in Szechuan.

THE BOARD OF COMMUNICATIONS.

AN APPRECIATION OF THE NEW PRESIDENT.

That most important position, the Presidency of the Board of Posts and Communications is to be filled by H.E. Hsu Shih Ch'eng. *Chinese Public Opinion* congratulates the Government upon the selection of this official, and says:—

H.E. Hsu has been for several years in one of the most difficult situations which any Chinese official has ever had to occupy. In the Viceroyalty of Manchuria he has had to deal with a country just recovering from the effects of a strenuous war. He has found there warring elements, both on the North and on the East. The country has been filled with an alien population, left behind by the belligerents and not by any means of the best class. With conspicuous ability H.E. Hsu has handled the difficult situation and with a diplomacy which does him great credit.

Not the least of his troubles have arisen over the Chientao question. This may be designated a deliberate attempt on the part of ill-informed Japanese officials to "grab" a portion of China's territory. The valley of Chientao is a splendid stretch of fertile rolling plain through which passes a broad river. Trouble has also been common with the Russians on the borders of Hei Lung Kiang and in reference to the navigation of the Sungari and Amur Rivers.

In the Board of Posts and Communications H.E. Hsu has also a very difficult post to fill. It is to be trusted that he will not follow in the footsteps of his predecessor in the matter of corrupt practices. He has a splendid opportunity to remodel a service which is of the utmost importance to the Empire. The matter of the Post Office is one in which he can show his worth by leaving bribery severely alone.

In the matter of railway he has a huge field before him, at present but partially exploited, and one which is of the greatest interest to China. We have already written at length upon the necessity of building roads in the Empire and we have suggested that criminals should be employed upon this work. There is more than a possibility that traffic may, in the near future, be conveyed by modern vehicles which do not require the metal roads which are at present a necessity of the railways. Leaving out the possibilities of motor traction the country would greatly benefit by the construction of good roadways.

Undoubtedly H. E. Hsu has a grand field before him in which to exercise that energy and administrative ability which he has so ably displayed in Manchuria.

THE ABSCONDING BANK SHROFF.

At the Mixed Court in Shanghai, on the 26th ult., Yang Kwei-lang alias Pah Sang was charged with absconding from Hongkong with a large sum of money on June 3, 1905, the money being the property of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

Det. Sub-Inspector Vaughan told the Court that he arrested the accused in a house in Woosung Road that morning.

It was stated that the amount of money which was alleged to have been stolen was \$52,200.

The Court remanded the accused in custody until Monday.

COMBATING RINDERPEST IN THE PHILIPPINES.

On the recommendation of Commissioner Worcester, Secretary of the Interior, the Philippines Commission has denied the request of the Municipal Council of Tarlac for the passage of an Act authorizing the grant of a prize for the discovery of a remedy or preventative for rinderpest in the Philippines.

In his report on the request Commissioner Worcester gives an explanation for his recommendation as follows:—

"Successful efforts to cure such diseases as rinderpest have heretofore invariably been made along the lines of developing a serum having high immunizing or curative power. To the securing of such a serum for the use of combatting rinderpest, some of the world's greatest bacteriologists like Dr. Koch of Germany, have given long and patient attention and a serum possessed of high immunizing and high curative value is now in comparatively common use in countries suffering from this disease.

"The question in these islands is not so much the matter of the discovery of a proper cure and a preventative as it is a matter of the use of the curative and preventative serum already discovered. To the end that its use may be generalized here, I have brought about a radical increase in the facilities for the preparation of the serum and have asked for a large increase in the veterinarian force.

It is believed the money spent along these lines will be of far more use to the public than money offered for a prize, in order to excite interest in a matter to which a number of the world's greatest investigators have devoted and are still devoting much time and attention.

"So far as these islands are concerned the insular government has been fortunate in securing, for the present, the services of Dr. Martini, who was for many years Dr. Koch's assistant, and is one of the most competent men in the world to carry on such work. An effort will be made to retain his services for at least one year from July 1, 1909."

THE BRITISH FLAG AT SEA.

A SHANGHAI CASE BEFORE THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

The judicial Committee of the Privy Council, consisting of Lords Macnaghten, Atkinson, and Collins, and Sir Arthur Wilson, heard last month an appeal by the owners and parties interested in the steamship *Maori King* from a decree of the Supreme Court at Shanghai which pronounced that the vessel, which had been seized and detained on a claim by Sir Pelham L. Warren, British Consul-General at Shanghai, was subject to forfeiture to his Majesty under certain provisions of the Merchant Shipping Acts, 1894 and 1906. The facts, shortly, appeared to be that the vessel had been purchased by a Russian firm, by whom all the shares in the vessel had been nominally transferred to one Dow, a British subject, who only registered the vessel as a British vessel, and she sailed from Vladivostok to Guaymas, in Mexico, flying the British flag, with 921 Chinese coolies and 217 Russians on board. During the voyage disturbances arose among the Chinese owing, as they alleged, to the fact that they had been got on board by false pretences. The learned judge found that "the British flag was used to cover the transportation of kidnapped coolies without sanitary or other precautions in circumstances of great hardship, if not illegality," and he ordered the forfeiture of the vessel. The defendants then lodged this petition, and the only question was whether on the defence pleaded the learned judge had discretion to refuse to decree the forfeiture of the ship, and if he had such discretion whether it ought not to have been exercised in favour of the defendants instead of in favour of the plaintiff. Sir Robert Finlay, K.C., Mr. Scrutton, K.C., and Mr. H. Cowell appeared in support of the shipowners' petition; and the Attorney-General, the Solicitor-General, and Mr. S. A. T. Rowlatt were for the Crown. Their Lordships reserved judgment.

JAPAN.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Tokyo, Feb. 11.

THE CONSTITUTION.

To-day Japan celebrates the twentieth anniversary of the promulgation of the constitution. The day is also a national holiday, being the Kigenetsu or anniversary of the coronation of the mythical emperor Jimmu, a personage of whose existence there is no doubt in the national mind. There is double reason therefore for making the day a happy one, and great doings will take place in the capital before nightfall. The compound of the Imperial Diet will be the scene of the principal official ceremony; there will be great popular rejoicing at Hibiya park, under the auspices of the municipality, and celebrations and lectures on constitutional subjects will be given at Waseda University and other centres of learning. Each *ku* or ward is arranging its own festivities to be crowned at night with a lantern procession. The whole of the day's programme will be repeated in many cities and districts throughout country.

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND WRONGS.

The Japanese are a procession-loving people. To judge by the fuss being made to-day a stranger would infer that they are the most constitutional of constitutional peoples, but the fact is that they are governed much in the same way to-day as they were before February 11, 1889, much in the same way as they were governed three hundred years ago. The work of twenty years has not done much to change the characteristics that have been formed by a patriarchal tyranny evolved in a thousand years, although the light is penetrating in some quarters, for recently one energetic newspaper questioned whether the elder statesmen were a constitutional institution! The mass of the people, however, are supremely indifferent to their privileges and duties as shareholders in the State, consider it a presumption to question the doings of those in authority, and are ever ready to follow the official lead and instruction. This blind faith leads to a violent reaction when the people find out that they have been deceived, as they occasionally do, but the fact that they are now responsible and no longer a subject race is not commonly understood. With the very beginning of constitutional government political parties were formed, but to this day they remain limited to a select circle. In speaking of the Sengukai party, or the Shim-po-to one does not mean the Conservatives or Liberals as in England, huge camps of voters holding certain political beliefs, but a few members of the Diet, having no principles and having been sent to parliament with no mandate from the people. The Government, aloof from all parties, moulds them to its purposes.

TRIFLES IN POLITICS.

In the House the questions which occupy most attention are not great affairs of State involving principles, but petty matters that ought to be settled in committee. An affair of Imperial importance to Japan is its policy in Korea and Manchuria. In these countries Japan is introducing methods naturally obnoxious to Western peoples, and the subject is worthy of a party's attention because it involves the future of the Japanese empire. Nothing at all is heard of this in the Diet as a matter of imperial policy. The subjects that are uppermost in the minds of politicians are the question of telephone charges, the Arisan affair, the abolition of the pari-mutuel. Perhaps the Government is wise in keeping attention fixed upon these small matters, for in the present condition of the Diet it is not competent to deal with greater questions. The one man in Japan fitted to lead a party according to English ideals, and to keep before it great questions of principle and policy, has now retired from active politics, unable to hold his fragments together. The *shimpoto* had in it all the elements of a real opposition party, but since Count Okuma's withdrawal it has lost what unity it possessed and is now of little service to the country as an example of an opposition party.

FORESTS OF MOUNT ARI.

I referred to the Arisan affair as one of the questions troubling the Diet. The Govern-

ment is severely criticised for a proposal, the cost of which is placed in the Budget, to take over the working of the forests on the slopes for this Mount Ari in Formosa. It originally granted privileges for this purpose to the Fujita firm of Osaka, but the latter being unable to make the working pay is to dispose of the property for two million yen, and the Government is to carry on the work. Now the argument of the papers is that if an expert business man cannot make a profit out of such an undertaking there is still less chance of amateur officials being able to do so. Beyond the purchase payment of yen 2,000,000 to the Fujita firm the Government has placed 4,000,000 yen in the Budget as working expenses. Both parties and papers seem to be set against the whole scheme. As for the property in question it is a forest of magnificent timber over a hundred square miles in extent at an altitude of from 2,500 to 9,000 feet above sea level. Every variety of valuable hardwood is found in abundance, and it is passing strange that the working of such a property cannot be made to pay. The suspicion of corrupt practice between the Government and this private firm is what has aroused public opinion to opposition. Corruption is the blight that so commonly afflicts commercial transactions, and in the Arisan affair the people feel they are being exploited.

O. S. K. PACIFIC SERVICE.

The *Tacoma*, a liner destined for the new service of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha to Pacific Coast ports, has just been launched at Kobe. Since the war the O. S. K. has felt to the full the bad effects of poor trade and competition. This competition especially in the China trade has been more severe than in the case of the N. Y. K., and judging by the outlook generally it is a bold move to start a new service across the Pacific at the present time. The question of navigation subsidies is one of the more important matters before the Diet, especially the grants-in-aid that are to be given to the Toyo Kisen Kaisha's new South American service. Japan pays more money in subsidies than any other maritime nation, and there are now before the Diet amendments to the subsidy laws which will deal a heavy blow to its shipping, if carried. The chief to suffer would be the N. Y. K., whose English and Australian services would be impracticable without the aid of subsidies, so it is said. The Government's apparent object in its new proposals is the withdrawal of support in one direction for use in another, namely, the subsidy of the South American line as a medium for emigration to a new and unlimited field and the withdrawal of support from the old established N. Y. K. It is not at all certain yet what alterations will be made in the existing subsidy laws, as the Government proposals will have to contend with the opposition of powerful commercial interests.

THE REFINERY SCANDAL.

No new developments have taken place in regard to the Dai Nippon Seito Kaisha. Full investigation has shown its affairs to be as bad as the most pessimistic anticipated and vigorous action on the part of the public prosecutor against defaulting directors and auditors would be welcomed by the public, but nothing has been done in this direction. Efforts are being made to continue the business, but it will be years before the company's debts are paid.

VAILS AT PEKING.

The following is extracted from *Chinese Public Opinion*:-

A Foreigner who, as Advisor to a Chinese Board, holds a high Chinese rank, was ordered the other day by Tieh Liang to attend in his official capacity a meeting at the Board of War. Arriving there the said foreigner was met by the gatekeeper with a demand for a "pourboire" of Taels Ten, and, as the foreigner refused to pay this "squeeze," the gatekeeper refused point blank to present the caller's card. A Chinese official who happened to pass and to whom the foreigner was well known, reported the state of affairs to the Minister of War, with the result that the Foreigner was admitted at once. Later on, when the Foreigner left the Board of War, the gatekeeper had the impudence to repeat his demand for *cumshaw* and on meeting with a refusal, started abusing the Foreigner in extremely bad and insulting language.

KULANGSU (AMOY) MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Council was held at the Board Room, on the 9th February. Present:-Messrs. W. H. Wallace (Chairman), J. S. Fenwick, W. Kruse, W. Wilson, A. H. Wilzer, the Health Officer and the Secretary.

The minutes of the meeting are recorded as follows:-

Mr. WALLACE—A very sad event has taken place in the community deeply affecting one of our number, and I therefore beg to move that we as a Council desire to record our sincere sympathy with our colleague in the great bereavement he has sustained. Carried unanimously.

THE COST OF THE POLICE FORCE.

Mr. WILSON desired to know whether the Members of the Finance Committee had had their attention drawn to a paragraph which appeared in a Hongkong paper of the 29th January. Certain figures were quoted, one item being \$1,652. Could the Finance Committee say what these figures represent?

Mr. WALLACE said he had seen the paragraph quoted. It was headed "Kulangsu Police." All points concerning the Police Force he fully answered at the last meeting; therefore there was nothing further for him to add under this head. He agreed with the writer of the paragraph that "comparisons are often deceiving," and, not only were they deceiving, but at times absurd. In this particular comparison, the amount of \$1,652 he found was an expenditure by the subscribers to the old Kulangsu Road Fund, and appears in their accounts for 1902, or some nine months before the Island became an International Settlement, and a Municipal Council was formed, and therefore it was absurd to make such a comparison, as the duties of the two bodies, the old Road Fund Committee and the Municipal Council, their functions and the work they were called upon to perform, were of an entirely different character in many respects. If a true comparison were needed, here were the figures of the old Road Fund days, from 1893, and the figures since the creation of the Municipal Council:-

KULANGSU ROAD FUND.

1893 Income	\$1,550.00	Expenditure	\$1,320.38
1894	" 1,486.48	"	1,534.50
1895	" 1,667.60	"	1,659.12
1896	" 1,733.83	"	1,629.68
1897	" 1,778.65	"	1,786.67
1898	" 1,729.00	"	1,811.51
1899	" 1,801.75	"	1,915.29
1900	" 1,713.25	"	1,801.05
1901	" 1,716.50	"	1,559.92
1902	" 2,230.90	"	1,652.40

KULANGSU MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

1903 (From 1st May to 31st December.)	Income	\$15,416.50	Expenditure	\$13,930.31
1904	Income	\$20,184.94	Expenditure	\$22,308.32
1905	"	23,229.79	"	21,349.63
1906	"	23,028.83	"	22,733.72
1907	"	24,858.80	"	20,468.23
1908	"	26,036.20	"	27,571.78

It will be seen from these tables that in 1904, our first full year as a Settlement, the Council's expenditure was \$22,308.32 against \$27,571.78 in 1908, or an increase of \$5,263.46 in five years, during two of which—1907 and 1908—some \$7,605 odd was extraordinary expenditure, being the amount expended on site for and the building of the new gaol, municipal offices &c., over and above the \$20,000 raised by issue of Debentures.

THE PAVILION.

In accordance with a resolution passed at the annual meeting of ratepayers, the Secretary was directed to offer the Kulangsu Lawn Tennis and Cricket Club the ruins of the Pavilion as they at present stand, and to ask them if they are prepared to take it over, and if so, when.

REPAIRS TO A JETTY.

The Secretary reported that the Seah Loh Tow Jetty was out of repair, and the cost of repairing same will be from \$150 to \$300 according to the work decided to be done. The matter was referred to the Works Committee for their report.

LICENSING CHAIRS.

The Secretary was instructed to arrange a meeting with representatives of the Mixed Court Magistrate, to discuss the question of licensing chairs.

A NEW APPOINTMENT.

Applications for the appointment of Assistant Secretary and Superintendent of Police were read and considered.

POLICE REPORT.

The Superintendent of Police reported that the Mixed Court has been closed "under the seal" for the last fortnight, opening again on the 10th instant, and so no cases had been heard.

SHIPPING NOTES.

The M.M. steamer *Sydney* homeward bound from China, met with another misfortune on the 13th ult. when between Singapore and Colombo one of the huge joists connecting the main shaft gave way and she was taken in tow by a Clan liner when off Hambantota and brought to Galle. The vessel on the previous two days had encountered very heavy weather, but it was perfectly calm when the accident occurred. The necessary repairs were expected to take seven days.

On her last voyage from Hongkong, the homeward M.M. mail steamer *Polynesian*, in going up the river to Saigon, ran down and sank an Annamite junk.

The Tokyo Kisen Kaisha is reported to have decided to resume the South American service from April next by order of the Communications Department at Tokyo. The service will be regularly made six times a year. Manzanillo and another Mexican port have been added to the former ports of call.

The T.K.K. steamer *Chiyo-maru*, on her return voyage from San Francisco exchanged wireless messages with a station on the Japanese coast when she was 1,100 miles off on the night of the 13th ult.

It is reported in the latest Japan papers received that the N.Y.K. steamer *Kasuga-maru* (3819 tons), from Kobe, went aground at 4.80 a.m., on the 15th ult. about 5½ miles off Moji. The *Fushiki-maru* and other vessels immediately proceeded to the scene. A later report says that the *Kasuga* entered Moji in tow of a tugboat at 2 p.m. She seems to have sustained no particular damage.

One of the Japanese Banks in Kobe is seeking an order of Court for the sale by public auction of a Japanese steamer of 1,280 tons named the *Taiyeki Maru*, registered in the name of Mrs. Sato Mine, of Kobe. The Bank have a mortgage on the steamer for yen 37,000, but one of the local papers states that there is a second mortgage on the steamer for 15,000 yen, and the steamer is also mortgaged to Messrs. Carlowitz and Co. for yen 30,000 as third security. The total of these mortgages is yen 82,000, while the value of the steamer is estimated at \$46,000.

An announcement recently appeared in the *Nachrichten* a Hamburg daily newspaper, that the Royal Dutch Steamship Co. intended starting, in July next, a service direct to Fremantle, Western Australia, and then via Port Adelaide and Java, to Manila, China and Japan. The representative of the Company in Sydney, however, has received a cable from Amsterdam stating that the board of directors has definitely decided to abandon the proposal.

The strike of the launch hands at Manila has had a sequel in the arrest of Dominador Gomez on charges of threats against the local shipping firms. The charges are the outgrowth of the Castle Bros.-Wolf and Sons strike in which Doctor Gomez took a prominent and self-imposed part, ordering the launch hands of the firm on a strike, following the walk-out of the bodega hands of Messrs. Castle Bros.-Wolf and Sons. Doctor Gomez, in a circular sent to all the shipping firms informed them of his "painful duty" to extend the strike to the firms addressed in case any aid was given to Messrs. Castle Bros.-Wolf and Sons. Messrs. Warner, Barnes and Company, who were among those favoured with a copy of the pronouncement, decided to call a halt to the doughty doctor's pernicious agitation by invoking the criminal law and the charges mentioned were the result.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE TOKYO TRAMWAYS.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—Your Tokyo correspondent, under date of January 2nd, discussed the much vexed question of the Tokyo tramways in a sense somewhat favourable to the company and very unfavourable to the citizens and Press of Japan's metropolis. There is, however, another side to the question, which in justice to what is perhaps the most progressive Press in the world should be put before your readers.

Your correspondent refers to the extensions now being carried out, which, he states, will be unprofitable until the population increases, and argues that "this heavy capital outlay can only have one effect unless the fare is raised." The one effect, presumably, is a decrease in the dividend, although only a nominal decrease. To the present capital expended will have to be added the capital expended on the extensions, and with no extra revenue from these extensions, the dividend, calculated on the increased capital expended, will not be as high as at present. Thus the company's demand is practically for an increased revenue to enable it to cover the loss caused by certain suburban extensions. If its charter compels the company to make these extensions, as your correspondent states, why has the company never attempted to obtain an alteration in the charter which would release it from the obligation of constructing lines which cannot pay? Taking your correspondent's reason for the increase of the fare as correct, is it very unnatural for the citizens of Tokyo to object to a proposal which taxes a large number for the benefit of the few persons to whom the extensions of the tramway are of value?

Your correspondent states that "three old companies were amalgamated with a subscribed capital of 60,000,000 yen." It may be pointed out, however, that the latest dividends declared were based on a capital of 43,500,000 yen. Thus, the last balance sheet showed 870,000 yen set apart for dividends for the half year, which was stated to be at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum. The sum of 43,500,000 yen may therefore be taken as the paid up capital of the company. The point is of some importance because undoubtedly the whole cause of the trouble lies in the immense capital expenditure per mile. At the time the municipalisation proposal mentioned by your correspondent was made—a year ago—the company was paying dividends on a capital of 35,250,000 yen and was stated by one authority to have six million yen in hand. From this it may be concluded that the company has in hand or has expended since that time the sum of 14,250,000 yen, or sufficient, as will be shown later, to construct over 100 miles of double track and 2000 miles of single track—more than the whole length of the extensions which are to be added in the course of the next seven years.

At the time of the municipalisation proposal the company had expended on the lines, deducting the six million yen said to be in hand, the sum of 29,250,000 yen. The length of single track was then stated by the Mayor of Tokyo to be 90 miles, but as the estimate seems a low one, it will be fairer to take the total at 100 miles single track, which gives a capital expenditure per mile of 292,500 yen. Considering the lower cost of labour in Japan it might not unreasonably be expected to find the capital expenditure per mile lower in this country than in the West, but an examination of the statistics shows this not to be the case. At the Congress held at the Franco-British Exhibition in London last year Sir Clifton Robinson, the tramway expert, gave some statistics as to the capital expenditure per mile on tramways in different countries. From these it appears that the capital expenditure per mile of single track on English tramways amounts to £16,648 (about 166,480 yen); in the United States to £20,000 (200,000 yen); and in Canada to £14,287 (142,870 yen). Even the London County Council tramways, which have the largest capital expenditure of any tramways in the world, only show an expenditure of £30,000 (300,000 yen) per mile.

It will thus be seen that the capital expenditure per mile on the Tokyo tramways is nearly equal to that of the London County Council tramways, while it very materially exceeds the average expenditure per mile on English, American and Canadian tramways. I have no statistics as to the capital expenditure per mile on other London tramways, but as Sir Clifton Robinson calculates the cost of construction on the London United tramways at £13,000 (130,000 yen) per mile double track, on this basis the 100 miles of line in Tokyo should have cost 6,500,000 yen and the cars, power house, etc. 22,750,000 yen. Part of this 22,750,000 yen was, however, expended in part payment for the widening of the streets in Tokyo, and it is a question how far this has affected the capital expenditure.

In whatever way the large expenditure per mile has been incurred, however, it remains obvious that with such a large capital outlay the company cannot expect to pay a large dividend without a disproportionate increase in the fare, to which method of remedying the financial affairs of the company the citizens of Tokyo rightly object. The present fare is 4 sen (roughly a penny), to which an extra sen must be added for transit tax. By allowances for return and workmen's and students' tickets the company contends that the amount it receives from each passenger is reduced to 3½ sen. As to the average distance travelled by each passenger there are reliable statistics, but from personal observation I should say it was about 5 miles, which would give an average of a little under a sen (one farthing) a mile. What is the average fare in London? Here is what Sir Clifton Robinson says of the London United Tramways, in which he is interested:—

"On the London United . . . we are running daily upwards of 60 workmen's cars, and on an average carry the passengers by these cars over 5 miles for 1d., or less than a farthing a mile, though in some cases the latter can travel three miles for a penny, while the average fare over the whole system for an ordinary passenger works out at less than a halfpenny a mile."

Taking into account the difference in the standard of wages and living it seems reasonable that the citizens of Tokyo should pay half the amount paid by the citizens of London. Again, in American cities the uniform fare for any distance is 5 cents gold, corresponding to 10 sen in Japanese money. The ordinary passenger on the Tokyo tramways pays exactly half this amount, when the transit tax is included, and, considering the high standard of wages in America, this also seems reasonable.

It has to be remembered that the original charge on the Tokyo tramways was 3 sen, the amount being raised to 4 sen on the petition of the company. This addition of one sen was thought at the time sufficient to put the company in a satisfactory position. It now appears to have been a prelude to an application for a further increase.

To sum up, the whole trouble has arisen from the enormous capital expenditure incurred by the company. There may or may not be a satisfactory explanation of how this charge was incurred, but the contention of the citizens of Tokyo seems fair—that the company should not recoup itself at their expense for mismanagement in which they were not concerned. The best course seems to be for the company to go on paying 4 per cent., the rate of the last dividend paid, until such time as the extensions bring in an increased revenue—Yours, etc.,

TOKYO.

Mr. Rufus Hildreth Thayer, the Judge of the U. S. Court for China, accompanied by Mrs. Thayer, arrived at Shanghai last week by the T.K.K.S. *Chiyo Maru*. He was met by Mr. C.A. Denby, U. S. Consul-General, Mr. W.R. Dorsey, Deputy Consul-General, and Mr. A. Bassett, District-Attorney. A large gathering of Americans, including Mr. Murray Warner, President, and the Committee of the American Association, assembled upon the jetty to meet the new Judge. It is understood that the American Association is planning some kind of entertainment to the new Judge, but the final arrangements were not made until it was known whether he was accompanied by Mrs. Thayer. For the present Mr. and Mrs. Thayer will stay at the Palace Hotel.

JAPANESE SHIPPING SUBSIDIES.

Government's programme with regard to shipping subsidies, says the *Japan Mail*, seems to be abolition of the present navigation encouragement and of the system of subsidies to ordered services and the replacement of both by an ocean lines subsidies law. By "ocean lines" are meant lines to Europe, to North America, to South America and to Australia. Further, it is proposed to change the conditions of eligibility for subsidy. At present the minimum qualifications are 1,000 tons gross and 10 knots speed. The new qualifications will be 3,000 tons and 12 knots. Further, under the present system, the Navigation Encouragement Law grants 25 *sen* to a qualified ship for every 1,000 nautical miles traversed, with a *pro rata* increase for every added knot of speed; whereas the new law will give a maximum of 50 *sen* for every 1,000 miles traversed, and will grant a maximum increase of 10 per cent. for each additional knot, such subsidy to be reduced by 5 per cent. annually after 5 years. Moreover, it is proposed to distinguish between the different lines according to their circumstances, granting a smaller sum in the case of prosperous lines. The calculation is that the result of these changes will be to reduce the total of the present subsidy from 10 to 15 per cent. This will involve the following losses of subsidy:—

Yusen Kaisha	Yen. 540,000
Toyo Kisen Kaisha	150,000

Total	690,000
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The subsidies remaining after the above reductions will be:—

YUSEN KAISHA.

European Line	Yen. 2,600,000
North-American Line	600,000
Australian Line	400,000

Total	3,600,000
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TOYO KISEN KAISHA.

North-American Line	1,000,000
South-American Line	1,200,000

Total	2,200,000
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Grand Total	5,800,000
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Those figures are independent of the Shipbuilding Encouragement Law which will be subsequently reformed, though it may be noted here that naturally the above changes will affect that Law also, since builders will have less temptation to construct vessels under 3,000 tons. The only feature of the above programme that seems obviously open to criticism is the provision that the subsidy is to vary according to the prosperity of the line concerned. Such an arrangement not only opens the door to official favouritism but also presents a premium to perfunctoriness. If a steamer's owners know that by offering constantly improved facilities to the travelling and shipping public, the additional patronage thus secured is to be set off by a loss of subsidy, they will naturally be indisposed to show zeal and enterprise. It should be added that the laws which will be thus altered have been in operation for 12 years.

As to the Shipbuilding Encouragement Law, the idea is to revise it so that no money shall be granted to any vessel of less than 1,000 tons gross—the present figure is 700 tons—and that instead of distinguishing between vessels of from 700 to 1,000 tons—for each ton of which class the present Law allows 12 *yen*—and vessels of and over 1,000 tons—for each ton of which the Law allows 20 *yen*—, a general provision shall be made, empowering the Authorities to grant from 11 to 92 *yen* according to their judgment. The amended Building Encouragement Law is to go into operation on and after January 1st, 1910, and will remain in force for 10 years. This system of conferring discretionary power on the Authorities is of doubtful advantage, and will probably give rise to much debate in the Diet.

The return of the number of cases of communicable disease in the Colony during the week ended the 27th ult. shows 4 cases of plague (3 fatal), 1 fatal case of diphtheria (Chinese), 2 cases of enteric fever, not fatal, and 3 imported cases of small pox, the patients being Indians. All, excepting the case of diphtheria, occurred in districts other than the City of Victoria.

HONGKONG TRAMWAYS.

The *Bangkok Times* says:—"Their many Bangkok friends will be glad to hear that Mr. and Mrs. J. Stodart Kennedy are on their way East again. They left London last month for Hongkong, stopping in Paris and Cairo on the way. Hongkong will be reached about the middle of next month. Mr. Stodart Kennedy has been appointed manager of the tramway system in Hong-kong."

Mr. Gray Scott, who has filled this position for the last five years, leaves for England next month. It is due to Mr. Gray Scott to say that his management of the tramway system has reflected the highest credit upon himself, and the Colony, we think, is entitled to congratulate itself upon having a tram service which has been worked from its inception with greater satisfaction than any system yet established in the Far East.

SHANGHAI TRADE.

Messrs. Ilbert and Co. of Shanghai in their latest Piece Goods Market Report state:—

Business continues very quiet, dealers not being disposed to enter into new contracts of any magnitude in any of the main staples of the trade. About 2,000 packages of goods and yarn have been shipped for Tientsin, but Chinese report that the steamers are delayed at Chefoo as the Peiho has frozen again. The first shipments to the North are no longer a criterion of demand, as throughout the winter goods are sent from here via Chang-wan-tao at the same rate of freight as direct shipments by steamer. It is to be hoped that trade with Tientsin will be resumed on the old basis this season, as after the unfortunate out-turn of much of the direct trade, it is unlikely that it will be continued on a large scale. It is difficult to account for the changes in the China trade, as it is not easy to obtain reliable information about the condition of affairs in the interior, but there seems little doubt that the trade in American Sheetings, for many years one of the principal staples of the Northern trade, is not an expanding one. Deliveries for last 4 years are as follows:—

1905	5,481,890 pieces
1906	2,869,330 "
1907	2,546,067 "
1908	1,963,782 "

American prices are high compared with the level of other producing centres, and not improbably the development of cotton spinning in China has had an adverse effect on this branch of the trade; most of the Chinese yarns are low counts, from which stout and durable native cloth is made. Deliveries of goods generally are going on in a fairly satisfactory way but there are still much heavier stocks than is desirable in the interests of trade.

THE RESIDENCY-GENERAL IN KOREA.

SEARCHING QUESTIONS IN THE DIET.

Mr. Otake Kwamehi, a Yushinkwai member in the Lower House, has given notice to put the following questions to the Government:—

(1) What is the fundamental policy of the Residency-General in the administration of the protectorate of Korea?

(2) Owing to the lack of control, local administration in Korea is in an extremely demoralised condition. What course does the Residency-General intend to take to remedy the situation?

(3) Prince Ito, the Resident-General, apparently considers it a pressing need in the reformation of Korea to cause ill-digested laws and ordinances which are unsuited to present conditions to be issued in order to give a varnish of civilisation to Korea. What is the result of this policy?

(4) The discipline of the Japanese officials in Korea is said to have become extremely lax. Is it possible in this way for them to become models for the Korean official?

(5) There are reports that the authorities of the Residency-General have been buying up or menacing journalists or newspaper correspondents in Korea, and restricting the freedom of speech or writing so as to hide the true state of affairs in Korea. Is there any truth in this?—*Japan Chronicle*.

FAR EASTERN TELEGRAMS.

THE STRAITS OPIUM FARM.

RECEIVER IN CHARGE.

Singapore, March 2nd.

The Government of the Straits Settlements has put a receiver in charge of the Opium Farm owing to the Farmers being in arrear with the payments to the Government.

The Farmers say that the Government policy is preventing the sale of the drug by the Chinese brokers, and this combined with the activity of the Anti-opiumists has destroyed profits of the Farm.

The arrears amount to \$425,000, Straits Currency, being part of the rent for January and the whole of the rent for February.

JAPAN'S CONGRATULATIONS.

Tokyo, March 4th.

On the occasion of the inauguration of the new President of the United States congratulatory messages were sent to Mr. Taft by the Emperor, Marquis Ito, and Count Katsura.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

THE CHINESE NAVY.

Peking, March 2nd.

Prince Su proposes the reform of the Chinese Navy and establishment of two Naval Colleges, one in Peking and the other in Nanking. He also proposes that officials (foreign officers) should be engaged as advisers.

His Highness also proposes improvements to the dock at Foochow.

These suggestions will be embodied in a memorial to the Throne.

Peking, March 3rd.

In another memorial Prince Su requests that the Viceroy and Governors of the different provinces should be granted the title of Vice-Présidents of the Admiralty, and should have power to control the Navy.

THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT.

Peking, March 2nd.

The Wai-wu-pu has telegraphed to the Provincial Viceroy warning them that trouble is feared from the operations of Dr. Sun Yat Sen and others now in Japan who are said to be plotting some scheme for creating a disturbance in China.

THE CHIENTAO AFFAIR.

Peking, March 2nd.

The Japanese Minister at Peking has withdrawn his recent admission that Chientao is Chinese territory.

WEI-HAI-WEI.

Peking, March 3rd.

Prince Su has memorialised the Throne asking that the Board of Foreign Affairs should be instructed to negotiate with the British Minister, Sir John Jordan, for the redemption of Weihaiwei.

In the event of the negotiations being successful, this port could be utilised as a Chinese naval station.

The German cruiser *Leipzig* was paying a visit to Manila last week. The *Fuerst Bismarck* was also there. The famous Band of this cruiser gave a concert on the 25th ult. at the Grand Opera house.

The Jubilee of the French occupation of Cochin-China was celebrated at Saigon on the 17th ult. All the troops of the garrison paraded in front of the statue to the Admiral Regault-de-Genouilly at 6 a.m. At seven o'clock the Governor-General and the Lieutenant Governor arrived. The King of Luong Prabang, the governors of the province and the members of the various Councils were also present, and from the tribune witnessed a review of the troops. The Band played the "Marseillaise," and the guns thundered their salutes.

INTERPORT CRICKET.

MATCH AT MANILA.

A cricket match was played on Sunday, 21st February, between the Interport team at Manila and a team selected from the English community, the result being a win for the latter. Some good cricket was shown, so good in fact as to give rise to the hope that a team will be able to come from Manila to Hongkong when the Singapore and Shanghai elevens visit the port. For the Interport team Thursfield both batted and bowled well and Wright played an excellent innings. For the victors Cairns made an excellent stand, completely conquering the bowling and made a brilliant 52. Appended are the scores:

INTERPORT TEAM.

I. T. Easton, b Somerville	0
E. G. Tait, c Clear, b Somerville	5
C. F. Page, b Barnes	4
R. P. Thursfield, c Barnes, b Morris	22
F. C. Wright, b Alexander	23
R. de B. Layard, c Higginbotham, b Morris	7
H. Horne, c Hamer, b Morris	10
C. H. Hawkins, c Higginbotham, b Morris	0
G. Andrews, b Somerville	9
J. R. Bedford, b Morris	0
W. M. Johnston, b Morris	0
E. M. Knox, not out	6
Bye and leg bye	3
Wides	0

Total 89

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Somerville	5	—	22	3
Barnes	3	—	21	1
Morris, H. M.	6	—	21	6
Alexander	4	—	21	1

SCRATCH TEAM.

P. A. Alexander, b Bedford	3
Capt. Somerville, b Thursfield	6
John Brown, c Page, b Thursfield	8
R. F. Hamer, run out	2
J. W. Cairns, b Bedford	53
A. K. Barnes, b Thursfield	4
H. S. King, b Bedford	9
R. McPherson, c Page, b Hawkins	6
H. E. Higginbotham, b Thursfield	1
C. A. Clear, c Horne, b Thursfield	18
H. M. Morris, not out	—
H. F. Morris, absent	—
Boe	4
Leg bye	1
Wide	2

Total 117

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Thursfield	15	1	45	5
Bedford	13	2	24	3
Page	2	—	12	—
Layard	4	—	14	—
Hawkins	3	—	15	1

BRITISH NORTH BORNEO.

CAPITAL FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF TERRITORY.

The directors of the British North Borneo Company announce an issue at par of 649,259 shares of £1 each, leaving for future issue £400,000 of the £2,000,000 capital authorised by the company's deed of settlement. It is explained that the objects in making this issue are:—(1) to provide more capital for the further development of the company's territory; (2) to redeem the £461,600 outstanding Five per cent. debentures and bonds, the interest on which (after redemption) will be available for dividend purposes.

From £14,196 in 1901 the surplus of revenue over expenditure has risen to £52,909 in 1907, and the dividend from 2 to 4 per cent., whilst the sum standing to the credit of profit and loss accounts in the last balance sheet, was £134,201. The prospectus points out that the company has, among other assets, sovereign rights, under which it is empowered to frame and enforce laws, to fix Customs and other tariffs, and to levy taxes for revenue purposes within the State of North Borneo, and territorial rights over the whole of the state, the area of which is estimated at some 31,000 square miles, and a large portion of which is suitable for the cultivation of rubber and high-class tobacco.

The assets valued in the books at £1451,000 include the marketable timber fifty million tons, while the company owns a fully equipped metre-gauge railway 125 miles in length, and about 800 miles of telegraph and telephone lines.

COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.—

RICE.

HONGKONG, 6th March.—Prices have fallen during the week and Quotations now, are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$5.10 to \$5.20
Round, Good quality	\$5.05 to 5.10
Long	\$5.20 to 5.30
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	\$5.20 to 5.35
Garden, " No. 1	\$5.05 to 5.10
White	\$5.00 to 5.10
Fine Cargo	\$5.10 to 5.15

SUGAR.

Yokohama, 15th February.—This market is very quiet. No auctions have been held during the past three weeks.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, March, 3rd.

Quotations are:—

Malwa New	\$1,070/1,080 per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1,090/1,100 do.
Malwa Older	\$1,110/1,140 do.
Malwa Very Old	\$1,150/1,180 do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$1,020 do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$880 do.
Patna New	\$1,000 per chest.
Patna Old	\$1,040 do.
Benares New	\$990 do.
Benares Old	\$— do.

JAPANESE MARKETS.

IMPORTS.

YOKOHAMA, 15th Feb.—Cotton Yarn.—This market remains in the same lifeless condition as last reported. Cotton Piece Goods.—In Cotton Italians some little business has been passing, and Grey and White Shirtings have been enquired for, but few transactions have resulted. Stocks of Greys are still reported plentiful. A small business has been put through in Velvets. Woollen and Woollen Mixtures.—The season for buying these is practically finished; there are, however, still a few orders going forward for Fancies. Apparently a considerable quantity of winter goods is being carried forward. Textiles Generally.—Everything is very quiet, the financial depression of last year seeming still to hang over this market. Raw Cotton.—The market continues to show no animation. Rice.—The market remains in much the same dull state as last reported, though a shade of improvement is manifest. Metals.—The Metal market is still quiet, and there is practically nothing doing. Window Glass.—A slight advance in this article is shown. Deliveries continue steady, but there has not been much new business placed. Kerosine Oil.—Arrivals and deliveries for the first half of February show:—Standard Oil Co.; arrivals, 64,724 cases, deliveries 6,450 cases; Rising Sun Petroleum Co.; arrivals nil; deliveries 3,500 units. Flour.—Values have increased in sympathy with the rise in wheat, but no business has been done. Wheat.—Prices have advanced considerably since our last report, and are not unlikely to go higher until the new crop is available.

COAL.

HONGKONG, March, 4th.—The arrivals of coal since the 9th ultimo amounted to 53,700 tons of Japanese, 5,000 Cardiff, 5,885 Australian, 8,100 Hongay and 2,000 Chinwantao. The coal expected is 69,300 tons Japanese, 5,900 tons Australian, 6,800 tons Hongay, 7,000 tons Borneo and 5,000 Wales. Quotations according to Messrs. Hughes and Hough's circular are as follows:—

Cardiff	\$23.50 ex-godown, nominal.
Australian	\$12.50 ex-godown, nominal.
Yubari Lump	\$12.00 Nominal.
Miki Lump	\$10.50 to 11.00 ex-ship, nominal.
Moji Lump	\$7.75 to \$9.50 ex-ship, steady.
Moji Unscreened	\$6.00 to \$8.00 ex-ship, steady.
Akaike Lump	\$8.75 to \$9.00 ex-ship, steady.
Labuan Lump	\$9.00 ex-ship sellers.

YARN.

HONGKONG—Mr. P. Eduljee, in his Report dated 5th March, states:—The demand during the past fortnight has materially fallen off, but this may be accounted for in a great measure, by the increased firmness of sellers who will no longer accept the low prices ruling. Holders are very firm, and supported by telegraphic advices from

Bombay are not inclined to yield to the representations of buyers of a weak and declining market in the interior. Dealers, on the other hand are now fairly well supplied with all grades of twist and can afford to wait developments and at the close a temporary lull is for the moment being experienced. Medium favorite tickets of No. 16s and 20s are enquired for at advancing prices, but being in very small supply, holders are able to obtain the values demanded for them. No. 10s and 12s have only been enquired for to a small extent. Latest telegrams from Bombay quote annas 5½ for best No. 10s per pound and annas 6½ for best No. 20s in that market. Sales of the interval amount to 4,740 bales, arrivals amount to 3,633 bales, unsold stock estimated at 12,500, and sold but uncleared yarn in second hands about 20,000 bales. Local Manufacture:—Nothing doing. Japanese Yarn:—Neglected throughout. Raw Cotton:—Prices are much below the level of those ruling in India and Shipments are greatly checked. Locally there has been very little doing, the business of the interval comprising the sales of 150 bales superfine Bengals at \$25 to 26½ and of a small parcel of 50 bales Thongchow at \$29. Stocks estimated at 275 bales Indian and 300 China. Quotations are Indian \$23 to \$26 and China \$25 to 29½. Exchange on India has shown signs of weakness in sympathy with silver and closes unsteady to-day at Rs. 12½ for T/T and Rs. 130 for Post. On Shanghai 7½ and on Japan 84. The undernoted business on imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 24th ultimo, viz:—Indian:—In steady demand at firmer prices, total sales about 8,000 bales, business being checked by firmness of holders. Estimated unsold and uncleared stock about 26,500 bales. Japanese:—Demand continues and sales of about 4,000 bales are reported on the basis of Tls. 95½ to 104½ for No. 16s and Tls. 103½ to Tls. 111 for No. 20s. Local:—In considerable demand, total sales about 18,000 bales, prices paid being Tls. 87½ for No. 10s Tls. 89½ for No. 12s Tls. 91 to 91½ for No. 14s and Tls. 94½ for No. 16s.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co. in their Piece Goods Report, dated Shanghai 26th February, 1909, state:—The Auctions of Fancy Goods are increasing, really monopolising the whole trade at the moment in the class of goods. It certainly seems a great pity that such a course should have to be resorted to and it can only be hoped that the end will justify the means.

Recent telegrams from Manchester intimate a rather weaker feeling, quotations being down practically all round, and Manufacturers anxious for orders. Cottons, with a few slight fluctuations, as far as American is concerned, has been fairly steady, closing at 5.07d. for Middling spot, while May/June is quoted 5.02d. c.o.c. Egyptian is easier again at 8½d. The last fortnightly telegraphic advice gave 18,000,000 yards as the export of Plain Cottons to China.

The New York market is still very firm, it being almost impossible to get any concessions on the prices quoted, which are 10s. 6d. for 3 yard, 9s. 8d. 3½ yard and 8s. 4½d. for 4 yard but we understand 1,000 bales 3 yard goods under a private chop have been bought for this market at 10s. 4d. Cotton is easier, the quotation for March option received to-day being 9.31 cents. From the monthly summary of commerce, etc. of the United States we learn the Export of Cotton Goods to China in November was 4,162,550 yards valued at \$214,263 gold, against 1,481,290 yards valued at \$112,653 gold in November, 1907. The total for eleven months was 74,172,792 yards, valued at \$4,242,913 gold, against 37,145,540 yards and \$2,581,583 gold in 1907. The Yarn market has continued excited, but buying has been chiefly by native speculators to bolster up their own holdings. The heavy arrivals of Indian this week are largely on indent account. Bombay is reported firmer and Spinners harder to deal with. As mentioned above the Auctions have been responsible for pretty well the whole of the business for the week, and of which we give a short epitome below, In American goods some 1,500 bales Sheetings have changed hands amongst the natives as follows:—2 Fish Tls. 415, Fox and Rabbit Tls. 4.52½ and Tls. 4.55, Eagle and Flag and Tiger and Lion Tls. 4.60, Piedmont Horse Tls. 4.62½ and Tls. 4.67½, Cabot A. and large and Small Eagle Tls. 4.65 and Tls. 4.70, 3 Rabbits Tls. 4.75 bott Cock Tls. 4.72½ (and from first hands at Tls. 4.80) Cameron, 2 Rabbits Tls. 4.85, Eagle A. Tls. 4.86½ and Bucks Head Tls. 4.90. In Drills 5.0 bales comprising:—Two Dog at Tls. 4.40, Large and Small Eagle and 4 Parrot Tls. 4.70 and Man, Horse and Bow Tls. 4.97½, also a small lot of 30 yard Beaver Jeans at Tls. 3.90.

SHANGHAI SHARE QUOTATIONS.

10th February, 1909.

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks:—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	\$900, sellers
National of China	£6	\$50
Russo-Chinese	R187½	Tls. 175
	T125	
Insurance:—		
Union Society of China	\$100	\$825, buyers
North-China	£5	Tls. 97½, buyers
Yangtze Assocn.	\$60	\$200
Canton	\$50	\$195, sales
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$337½, sales
China Fire	\$20	
Shipping:—		
Indo-China { pref. } £10		Tls. 48, sellers
Shell Trans. { ord. }		
& Trading { pref. }	£1	\$22.80
S'hai Tug & Lighter { ord. }	10	\$9.10.0
Kochien Transport- ation & Tow Boat { pref. }	T50	Tls. 46, buyers
	T50	Tls. 52, buyers
	T50	Tls. 48
	T50	Tls. 50
Docks & Wharves:—		
S'hai Dock & Erg...	T100	Tls. 84, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$91, sellers
S. & H'kew Wharf	T100	Tls. 173, buyers
H. K'loon W. & G.	\$50	\$45, sellers
Yangtze	T100	Tls. 217½
Sugar Companies:—		
Perak Cultivation	T50	Tls. 110, sellers
China Refining	\$100	\$112½, buyers
Mining:—		
Raub Australian	£1	\$8, buyers
Chinese Eng. & Min.	18/10	Tls. 18½, buyers
Lands:—		
S'hai Investment	T50	Tls. 115, sellers
H'kong Investment	\$100	\$93
Humphreys' Estate	T10	\$10½
Wei-hai-wei	T25	Tls. 8, buyers
China	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
Anglo-French	T100	Tls. 104, sellers
Cotton:—		
Ewo	T50	Tls. 105
International	T75	Tls. 83½, buyers
Laou Kung Mow	T100	Tls. 88, sellers
Soy Chee	T50.0	Tls. 310, sales
Industrial:—		
Shanghai Gas	T50	Tls. 121, buyers
Major Brothers	T50	Tls. 50
Shanghai Ice	T25	Tls. 14
China Flour Mill	T50	Tls. 36, sales
S'hai Pulp & Paper	T100	Tls. 30
Green Is. Cement	\$10	\$10, sellers
Maatschappij, & Co., in Langkat	Gs.100	Tls. 825 sellers
Shanghai - Sumatra Tobacco	T20	Tls. 116 sales
S'hai Waterworks	£20	Tls. 435, sales
Anglo-Ger. Brewery	100	\$80, sellers
A. Butler Cement, Tile Works	50	\$20
Kalumpang Rubber	5	Tls. 87, sales
S. R'ber Estates	T100	Tls. 100, sales
Eastern Fibre	\$10	
Shanghai Electric Construction	£10	\$9.0.0, sellers
Miscellaneous:—		
Hall & Holtz	\$20	\$23, sales
A. Llewellyn	\$60	\$52, buyers
A. S. Watson & Co.	\$10	\$42
Central Ordinary	\$15	\$18
Central Founders	\$15	\$108, buyers
S. Moutrie & Co.	\$50	\$46, sales
Weeks & Co.	\$20	\$24, sales
Astor House Hotel	\$23	\$16½, sales
Hotel des Colonies	T12.50	Tls. 5½, buyers
Lane, Crawford & Co.	100	\$152½, buyers
Dunning & Co.	50	\$50, sales
S'hai Horse Bazaar	T50	Tls. 50, sales
S'hai Mercury	T50	Tls. 50
S'hai Mutual Tele.	T50	Tls. 61, buyers
China Im. & Ex. Lumber	T100	Tls. 83, sellers
Shanghai Electric & Asbestos	\$25	\$22, sellers
Dallas Horse Repository	T50	Tls. 25
Printing Co.	T50	Tls. 5

J. P. BISSET & Co.

Messrs J. P. Bisset & Co. in their Share Report for the week ending February 24th, state:—There has been an improvement during the week in nearly all our leading stocks, the most notable feature being a further large rise in Maatschappij & Co. Langkats. Banks.—H. & S. Banks. No business reported, but shares are wanted at \$900 with Ex. 73. The T.T. on London to-day is 2/3½. Insurance.—North China Ins. Co. A fair number of shares changed hands at Tls. 97½. The market is steady at this rate. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. Co. There are sellers of these shares at Tls. 49 for the old and new shares combined. Shanghai Tug & Lighter Co. Shares have changed hands at Tls. 46 cum. div. Docks & Wharves.—Shanghai Docks & Engineering Co. There has been a steady demand during the week for shares in this Co. at increasing rates, but no shares have come out so far as we know. The market closes with buyers at Tls. 82 for cash, Tls. 83 for March, and Tls. 86 for June. Shanghai & Hongkew Wharves. This market improved, business being reported at Tls. 166 and Tls. 167 for cash, Tls. 168, Tls. 169, and Tls. 170 for March, and at the close Tls. 170 cash and Tls. 172½ March are offered. Sugars.—Perak Sugar Co. After business had been done at Tls. 105, a transaction took place at Tls. 107½ and further shares are wanted at this rate. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment Co. A fair business has been done at Tls. 116 ex. div. Mining.—No business has been reported, but Kaiping, are in demand at Tls. 18. Industrial. There has been a steady improvement in all Cotton Mill shares. Business being reported in International Cotton Mills at Tls. 82, in Ewo at Tls. 106 for March, and Laou Kung Mow at Tls. 89 for March. Sumatras. The price fell considerably after the dividend was declared and business was done at Tls. 105 March, but shares are now wanted at this rate. Maatschappij, etc., in Langkats. There has been a demand all the week for these shares, the market opened at Tls. 770 for cash and Tls. 775 for March and closing at Tls. 805 cash, Tls. 815 March and Tls. 835 for June. Kalumpang Rubber Co. Business is reported at Tls. 85 and Tls. 86½ closing strong at the latter rate. Senawang Rubber Co. Business is reported at part, Tls. 100. Stores and Hotels.—Central Stores were done early in the week at \$16½ but the market closed with buyers at \$17. Miscellaneous. Shanghai Electric Construction Co. Bearer shares are quoted at £8.17.6. Other stocks under this heading are as appended below. Loans and Debentures.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf 6 per cent Debentures were negotiated at Tls. 101½.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	HONGKONG, March 5th.
Telegraphic Transfer	1/8½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/8½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/8½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	1/8½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/8½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/9½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	217½
Credits 4 months' sight	221½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	176½
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	42
Credits, 60 days' sight	43½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	129½
Bank, on demand	130
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	129½
Bank on demand	130
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	74½
Private, 30 days' sight	75½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	84
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	84½
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	74
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	103½
ON HONGKONG.—	
On demand	14½ p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	14 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	88
SWEDISH, Bank's Buying Rate	\$11.45
GOLD LEAF 100 fine, per tael	\$59.80
BAR SILVER per oz	23½

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

		per cent discount
Chinese	20 cents pieces....	\$7.87
"	10 " "	8.25
Hongkong	20 " "	7.00
"	10 " " ...	7.10

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 5th March.—Rates remain about the same as last reported, but there has been a slightly better inquiry for tonnage. From Saigon to Hongkong 13 cents last and offering; to Singapore, 14 cents; to 1 port Philippines, 22/23 cents, according to quantity; to 1 port North Coast Java, 23 cents per picul. From Newchwang to Canton, first fixture of the season was effected at 25 cents per picul for 28,000 piculs. Coal freights continue firm, with a steady demand. From South Japan Coal Port to Hongkong, \$1.55; to Canton, \$2.20; to Swatow, \$2.15; Hongkong, \$1.80; Singapore, \$3.00 last. From Hongkong to Hongkong, \$1.50. From Pulo Laut to Hongkong, \$2.10/2.20 according to size; to Singapore, \$2.25. Time charters:—A Chinese Syndicate has taken up six Norwegian steamers on charter for one year, particulars as below, to run between Hongkong, Swatow and Bangkok in competition with the Norddeutscher Lloyd. This concern is alleged to have a capital of ticals 2,000,000, with 800,000 called up, the principal shareholders being Bangkok Rice Mill Owners and Shippers.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

February:—	ARRIVALS.
26, Halvard, Norwegian str., from Haiphong.	
27, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Hoihow.	
27, Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai.	
27, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.	
27, Shantung, German str., from Bangkok.	
28, Andalusia, German str., from Shanghai.	
28, Baron Dalmeny, Br. str., from Cardiff.	
28, Ceylon Maru, Jap. str., from Bombay.	
28, Chiyo M., Jap. str., from San Francisco.	
28, Erroll, British str., from Bangkok.	
28, Foochow, British str., from Chinkiang.	
28, Germania, German str., from Chinkiang.	
23, Esang, British str., from Chinkiang.	
28, Hailan, French str., from Hoihow.	
28, Haitan, British str., from Swatow.	
28, Linan, British str., from Shanghai.	
28, Namsang, British str., from Yokohama.	
28, Ping Suey, British str., from Liverpool.	
28, Tsintau, German str., from Bangkok.	
28, Venus, American str., from Manila.	
28, Wingsang, British str., from Chinwantao.	
28, Yerimo M., Jap. str., from Kutchinotzu.	

March:—	
1, Alesia, German str., from Portland.	
1, Awa Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.	
1, Chihli, British str., from Hoihow.	
1, Diomed, British str., from Singapore.	
1, Kumsang, British str., from Calcutta.	
1, Nera, French str., from Saigon.	
1, Palma, British str., from London.	
1, Salazie, French str., from Shanghai.	
2, Benleuch, British str., from Moji.	
2, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.	
2, Constantia, German str., from Shanghai.	
2, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.	
2, Rubi, British str., from Manila.	
2, Sungkiang, British str., from Iloilo.	
2, Telemachus, British str., from Saigon.	
2, Yeddo, Swedish str., from Shanghai.	
3, Aldenham, British str., from Yokohama.	
3, Amara, British str., from Wakamatsu.	
3, Anhui, British str., from Shanghai.	
3, Haiyang, British str., from Coast Ports.	
3, Mathilde, German str., from Hoihow.	
3, Moyori Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.	
3, Perlak, Dutch str., from Swatow.	
3, Rigel, American str., from Manila.	
3, Waishing, British str., from Chinkiang.	
3, Yatshing, British str., from Moji.	
3, Yorihiima Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.	

HONGKONG PRICES CURRENT.

HONGKONG, 5th March, 1909.

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

Grey Shirtings—6lbs. piece	\$1.80	—
7 lbs. "	2.40	—
8.4 lbs. "	—	—
10 lbs. "	4.20 to	5.40
White Shirtings—54/56 reed ..	2.65 to	3.65
58/60 .. "	3.65 to	5.95
64/66 .. "	6.10 to	7.15
Fine "	8.05 to	9.15
Book-folds .. "	3.15 to	6.15
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ... "	0.65 to	1.80
T-Cloths—6 lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y ..	1.95 to	2.20
7 lbs. "	2.25 to	3.35
8 lbs. "Mexicans, .. "	—	—
7 lbs. "	2.70 to	3.80
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.) .. "	3.20 to	4.20
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ to 14 lbs. } ..	4.40 to	5.40

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 6 lbs. piece }	1.75 to	4.25
Brocades—Dyed yard	0.11 to	0.15
Chinese—Assorted "	0.08 to	—
Velvets—Black, 22 in., .. "	0.28 to	0.55
Velveteens—18 in., .. "	0.23 to	0.28
Handkerchiefs—Imitation } Silk per dozen }	0.50 to	2.00

WOOLLENS—

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops yard	0.70 to	0.70
German "	—	—
Habit, Medium & Broad Cloths, ..	1.25 to	3.00
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-9 lbs. piece	8.30 to	8.75
Assorted "	8.30 to	8.75
Camlets—Assorted "	—	—

WHEATEN FLOUR—

Lastings—30 yds. 31 inches } Assorted "	14.00 to	21.00
Orleans—Plain "	11.00 to	—
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	0.60 to	1.50

RAW COTTON—

Bombay picul	\$23.00 to	\$26.00
Bengal (New), Rangoon and Dacca "	23.00 to	26.50
Shanghai and Japanese .. "	24.00 to	27.00
Tungchow and Ningpo .. "	24.00 to	27.00

EXPORTS:—

SILK

Yokohama, 15th February.—During the past fortnight the raw silk market has been very quiet, with but a small business to report. Prices have receded somewhat; but scarcity of desirable silks prevents any important decline. As regards fine sizes, the supply is practically exhausted for the time being and very little more is expected to arrive during the current season. A considerable business in waste silk, was done during the first week of the period under review, but the market has since been quiet. The stock on hand is mostly composed of inferior qualities. Habutai.—There has been but little doing in the Kanazawa market during the first fortnight of the month, prices remaining fairly steady, though 26 inch goods show a slight decline. Demand from America has fallen off and enquiries from Europe are limited. Rates for Echizen are steady, but business is altogether very quiet; indeed, buyers appear to hold off in anticipation of lower prices. Enquiries for Kawamata have been chiefly confined to 36 inch, otherwise there is a slight downward tendency.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Messrs Arnhold, Karberg & Co.'s Fortnightly Produce Circular. Dated Shanghai, 25th Feb., 1909. State:—Gallnutt.—Market quiet.—Little demand. Cowhides.—Only a small business is being done. Dealers are firm and will not make concessions as yet. They will no doubt have to reduce their prices ere long, as buyers are not eager. Feathers.—Little doing. Cotton.—Prices on this side continue to advance, which makes business impossible. Tallow.—This article is neglected. Very little has been done since Chinese New Year. Sesamumseed.—Market quiet and steady. After the very large business consummated this season native dealers and exporters are content to go slowly. Straw Braid.—Market quiet; stocks small. Wool.—Sheeps.—A Good business has been done with America and the Chinese have realized very full prices. Antimony.—Market continues very strong. If the demand continues we expect higher prices as stocks are small.

Per M. M. steamer *Salazie* sailing on 2nd March 1909. For London.—50 bales waste silk. For St. Chamond.—30 bales raw silk. For Lyon.—185 bales raw silk. For Marseilles.—206 bales raw silk. 66 packages human hair, 8 case feathers, 4 cases silk piece goods. For Tamatave.—25 packages provisions. For London.—250 bales hemp. For Marseilles.—4 cases hats.

HONGKONG SHARE QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 5th March, 1909.—A fairly good demand for investment purposes has again been in evidence in our market during the past week and rates in many cases have again improved, the general tone at the close being one of continued firmness. The features of the period under review have been a further substantial advance in Banks, and to some extent in China Sugars also, whilst Shanghai Docks and Hongkew Wharves also show a further gratifying appreciation. Exchange on London has declined to 1/8½ (T./T. and Barsilver to 23½ d. The T./T. rate on Shanghai is quoted at 74½.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai after small sales at \$87½ and \$87½ rose rapidly to \$88½, and the demand continuing, again to \$89½, and finally to \$900, at which figure a fairly good business has been transacted, the market closing firm with further buyers. The latest London quotation per Reuter is £84, 10s. 0d., but an advance on this is naturally anticipated when next advices come to hand. Nationals continue in request at \$51, but no business is reported.

MARINE INSURANCE.—Unions are easier at \$82½ at which figure a small sale is reported. China Traders, North Chinas, and Yangtszes are unchanged but in request at quotations, and it is probable that Cantons could also be placed at the quoted rate, viz, \$187½.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks are quiet with sellers at \$87. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves after sales at \$47 and \$48 close steady with probable buyers at the higher rate. Shanghai Docks in the early part of the week were again done at Tls. 84 and later at Tls. 85, but on the demand continuing with increased strength from the north the rate rose rapidly to Tls. 89, Tls. 90, and finally to Tls. 91 at which figure the market closes strong. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves have advanced in the north to Tls. 177 with buyers, but no local business is reported.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have receded slightly, and are obtainable to a small extent at \$330. Chinas after a small sale at \$106 cum. div. have advanced to \$99 ex. the dividend and bonus of \$8 per share paid to-day.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao are firmer with buyers at \$29½ but no shares appear available under \$29½. Indo-Chinas have been booked at \$39½ pfrs and \$19½ Defs combined, and more shares could probably be disposed of at these rates. Douglasses continue in request at \$34, and Shell Transports at the improved rate of 52/- China and Manilas are still offering at \$12.

MINING.—Charbonnages have been booked at \$600 cum the dividend of Tls. 37½ (Interim on account of 1908, Coupon 16) paid in Paris on the 1st instant, and more shares are wanted. Raubs are easier with sellers at \$8½. Chinese Engineerings have been booked and are in further request at Tls. 18½.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands continue in request, but no shares are available at the quotation of \$96. Kowloon Lands and West Points are quiet at last quotations with no business to report. Humphreys Estates after further sales at 8½ are somewhat easier with no buyers over \$8.65. Hongkong Hotels have weakened slightly, shares being now available but without buyers at \$90. Shanghai Lands are unchanged at Tls. 115 and without local business.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewcs have been sold to the North at Tls 104 since which the rate has advanced to Tls. 106. Other Northern stocks in this section also show advances the latest quotations to hand being Soychee Tls. 310. Internationals Tls. 83½, and Laon Kung Mows Tls. 88. Hongkongs have been booked at \$9 at which rate the market closes steady.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Bells Asbestos continue in request at \$10, and Campbell Moors at \$9. China Borneos have been done at the improved

rate of \$12 and close in further request. Cements have been booked at \$9.50, \$9.55, and \$9.60, and more shares are procurable at the latter rate. There are buyers of China providents at \$9.20, Daily Farms at \$14, Electrics at \$18½, Union Water Boats at \$10½, China Light and Powers at \$4½ and Watsons at \$9. Ices are procurable at \$205.

MEMOS.—Company Meetings announced. Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., 9th inst. Geo Fenwick & Co., Ltd., 13th, China Sugar Refinery Co., Ltd., 19th, and Luzon Sugar Refinery Co., Ltd. 19th.

Quotations are as follows:—

STOCKS	PAID UP	QUOTATIONS
Alhambra, Ltd.	\$50	Nominal
Ranks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	all	\$900, buyers \$84.10 x.d.
National B. of China	26	\$51, buyers
Hell's Asbestos E. A....	12/6	\$10, buyers
China-Borneo Co.....	\$12	\$12 buyers
China Light & P. Co....	\$10	\$4½, buyers
China Provident	\$10	\$9.20, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo Cotton S. & W.	Tls. 5	Tls. 106
Hongkong C. S. Co.	\$10	\$9 sales
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 83½
Laon Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 88
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 310
Dairy Farm Co.....	\$6	\$14, buyers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	all	\$48
H. & W. Dock	all	\$87, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$1	\$9½, buyers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 91,
S'hai & H. Wharf...	Tls. 100	Tls. 177
Fenwick & Co., Geo...	\$25	\$12, sellers
G. Island Cement Co	10	\$9.60, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas...	all	\$200, buyers
Hongkong Electric...	\$10	\$18½, sales & buy.
Hongkong Hotel Co....	all	\$90, sales & sel.
Hongkong Ice Co.....	all	\$205, sellers x.d.
H. K. Milling Co., Ltd.	\$100	Nominal
H'kong Rope M. Co....	all	\$24 x.d. sales
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$187½
China Fire	\$20	\$99 x.d. buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$87½, buyers
Hongkong Fire	50	\$330, sellers
North China	\$5	Tls. 97½, buyers
Union	\$100	\$825, sales & buy
Yangtsze	\$60	\$192½, buyers
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	100	\$96, buyers
Humphrey's Estate	all	\$8.65 buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$30
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 115
West Point Building	\$50	\$44, sellers
Mining—		
S. F. des C. du T'kin	all	\$600, sales & buy
Raubs	18/10	\$8½, sellers
Peak Tramways Co., Ltd	all	\$14
Philippine Co., Ltd....	\$1	\$1½ sales
Refineries—		
China Sugar	all	\$142½, buyers
Luzon Sugar	all	\$17
Robinson Piano Co....	\$50	\$59, sellers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila...	\$25	\$12, sellers
Douglas Steamship	all	\$34, buyers
H., Canton & M. ...	\$15	\$29½, buyers
Indo-China S. N. Co.	all	\$39½, sales
Shell Transport Co.	21	\$52½, buyers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$23½
South China M. Post...	\$5	\$15
Steam Laundry Co....	\$5	\$24, sellers
Stores & Dispensaries—		
Campbell, M. & Co...	all	\$9, buyers
Wm. Powell, Ltd.	\$7	\$2½
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$2½
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$0	\$9, buyers
Weissmann, Ltd.	\$100	\$140
United Asbestos	\$4	\$12½
Union Waterboat Co....	\$10	\$230

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

4. *Kamakura Maru*, Jap. str., from London.
 4. *Macedonia*, British str., from London.
 4. *Strombus*, British str., from Singapore.
 4. *Yasan Maru*, Jap. str., from Kutchinotzu.

February:— DEPARTURES.

27. *A migo*, German str., for Haiphong.
 27. *Devawongse*, German str., for moy.
 27. *Fukura Maru*, Jap. str., for Wakamatsu.
 27. *Gryfevale*, British str., for Newcastle.
 27. *Klaiching*, British str., for moy.
 27. *Kleist*, German str., for Shanghai.
 27. *Manila*, German str., for Manila.
 27. *Pitsanulok*, German str., for Swatow.
 27. *Silesia*, Austrian str., for Singapore.
 27. *Spezia*, German str., for Shanghai.
 27. *Zafiro*, British str., for Manila.
 28. *Chenan*, British str., for Shanghai.
 28. *Chipshing*, British str., for Tientsin.
 28. *Fukui Maru*, Jap. str., for Moji.
 28. *Glenfalloch*, British str., for Amoy.
 28. *Haimun*, British str., for Swatow.
 28. *Jlyria*, German str., for Shanghai.
 28. *Joshin Maru*, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 28. *Laertes*, British str., for Saigon.

March:—

1. *Ceylon Maru*, Japanese str., for Shanghai.
 1. *Feiching*, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 1. *Glamorganshire*, Brit. str., for Shanghai.
 1. *Kaifong*, British str., for Cebu.
 1. *Nera*, French str., for Shanghai.
 1. *Onsang*, British str., for Saigon.
 1. *Yuensang*, British str., for Manila.
 2. *Cheongshing*, British str., for Swatow.
 2. *Hailan*, French str., for Pakhoi.
 2. *Haitan*, British str., for Swatow.
 2. *J. Diederichsen*, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
 2. *Kaga Maru*, Japanese str., for Seattle.
 2. *Kutsang*, British str., for Shanghai.
 2. *Manchuria*, American str., for Shanghai.
 2. *Monteagle*, British str., for Vancouver.
 2. *Ningpo*, British str., for Swatow.
 2. *Ping Suey*, British str., for Shanghai.
 2. *Salazie*, French str., for Europe.
 2. *Taming*, British str., for Manila.
 2. *Titan*, British str., for Manila.
 3. *Andalusia*, German str., for Hamburg.
 3. *Awa Maru*, Japanese str., for London.
 3. *C. Diederichsen*, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
 3. *Constantia*, German str., for Hamburg.
 3. *Haimun*, British str., for Swatow.
 3. *Hanoi*, French str., for Haiphong.
 3. *Machew*, German str., for Bangkok.
 3. *Nanchang*, British str., for Newchwang.
 3. *Palma*, British str., for Yokohama.
 3. *Shantung*, German str., for Sourabaya.
 3. *Shoshu Maru*, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 3. *Triumph*, German str., for Hoihow.
 3. *Wakamatsu M.*, Jap. str., for Nagasaki.
 4. *Derwent*, British str., for Saigon.
 4. *Diomed*, British str., for Kutchinotzu.
 4. *Kwongsang*, British str., for Shanghai.
 4. *Tsintau*, German str., for Bangkok.
 4. *Yeddo*, Swedish str., for Singapore.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

- Per *Aldenharn*, from Japan, Capt. Holm.
 Per *Tsintau*, from Bangkok, &c., Mr Frey.
 Per *Glamorganshire*, from London &c., Mr Barkley.
 Per *Palma*, from London, for Manila Mr C. A. Fulchie.
 Per *Haitan*, from Swatow, Mrs Rip and Mr Fothergill.
 Per *Namsang*, from Kobe, for Calcutta, Mr and Mrs Cooper and child.
 Per *Kumsang*, from Calcutta, &c., Messrs Gibbons, Brown and McCallum.
 Per *Haiyang*, from Swatow, Colonel and Mrs. Pemberton, Miss Botta and Mr. Poix.
 Per *Rubi*, from Manila, Mr & Mrs Honig and child, Rev. and Mrs Widdres and four children, Miss B. Richards, Messrs H. E. Heacock, M. Ferrand, S. Makins, L. Santos, J. E. McClelland, W. B. White, A. C. Gomes and C. F. Waldo.
 Per *Taming*, from Manila, Mrs A. Cuerva and baby, Mrs V. del Rio and 2 children, Misses L. Forsyth, D. Forsyth, F. Hamer, B. Forsyth, H. Vaughan, J. Harcourt and L. Beaumont, Messrs J. A. Pourree, L. Loundes, C. Cooke, H. Neville, C. Vane, T. Sydney, D. Vigors, R. H. Smith, J. Shroul, G. McLeod, E. S. Geach, J. Bruce, C. Baylan, C. Rodriguez, R. Falliero, C. Lobas, R. Cotta, L. Fernandez, B. Lazarum, J. Broadbent, W. Swann, F. G. Figg, P. Madariaga, A. Harrison, J. Giocanti and W. H. Tidwell.

Per *Silesia*, from Shanghai, Dr. Banchs.Per *Anhui*, from Shanghai, Capt. and Mrs Sutherland, Mrs Casley and child, Mrs Tuebbin and Mr Goetz.

Per *Chiyo Maru*, for Hongkong, from San Francisco, Mr and Mrs G. G. Barnum, Mr and Mrs D. M. Taylor, Miss M. O'Neill, Doctors J. A. Corncaden, T. J. Miller and W. J. Cathrall, Messrs Bertel Asp, Wm. M. Conway, B. S. Foss, N. Foss, P. C. Groves, N. Kersey, C. G. Morrison, P. Russell, I. C. Sargent and P. H. Scott; from Honolulu, Miss J. Howley and Mr J. A. Corruthers; from Yokohama, Mrs M. Daniels, Capt. P. H. Going, Messrs S. E. Armstrong and T. Hidzumi; from Kobe, Mrs C. Adair and 2 maids, Mrs Ida M. Haslett, Mrs Robb, Jocelyn, Miss H. Post, Col. J. H. Lewis and servant, Messrs Wm. Hoops, K. Matsda, B. Nakazawa and R. Walsh; from Shanghai, Mr and Mrs W. H. Nafey, Gen. and Mrs A. C. Taylor, Misses E. M. Hunt, E. W. Hunt, and E. G. Hunt, Messrs J. H. Dorian, S. N. Jordan, O. Mordhorst and servant, J. D. Ross, D. D. Scerie, Eea da Silva and servant.

Per *Kleist*, for Hongkong, from Bremen, Lloyd's Officers Hartig and Birtow, and Mr A. von Arend; from Southampton, Major, Mrs and Miss Dann; from Genoa, Mr and Mrs Gustavs Eng. Seidler, Messrs Rob. Garmann, Ernest Wallach, Carl Wulkow, G. Glasemann, R. Richter and A. Wagner; from Port Said, Mr and Mrs E. McClallan, Messrs Th. F. Thsady, Clifton E. de Korety and Warren D. Smith; from Colombo, Mr and Mrs E. Courvoisier-Gaket, Mrs Meinhold, Mrs Marg. Wuster, Misses R. Courvoisier and Rejeld, Messrs I. H. Gibson, Law and Mainhold; from Singapore, Mr and Mrs Reitmeister, Dr. and Mrs H. Ficke, Mrs W. A. Thompson, Mrs J. E. Kurlbut, Mrs Lgman Baird, Mrs Ella R. Towll, Mrs M. D. Wingate, Mrs Jenga, Misses Steering (2), Clarice V. Okie, and St. Claire Okie, Colonel Whipple, Messrs Otto Schulz, H. F. Ward, Wallrie, H. Schoode, Alan Jack, F. B. Okie, A. v. Oosterreidu, Haiman, H. Craft, M. H. Leowg and H. T. Waine.

Per *Macedonia*, for Hongkong, from London, Dr. Mrs and Miss M. Clark, Misses Hunt, L. B. Craig, MacNaughton and Skagg, Lord F. Hamilton, Dr. F. Clark, Rev. Hipwell, Messrs Loy Alkin, R. Matthews, Armitage, H. Barnicott, P. Fenwick and D. Stevenson; from Marseilles, Rev. A. Anderson, Dr. W. Anderson and Mr R. A. Rogers; from Gibraltar, Mr and Mrs Tonningson; from Port Said, Mr and Miss W. G. Irons; from Bombay, Major and Mrs Letbinere, Dr. and Mrs Ross, Mrs David and amah, Lt. Monteith, Messrs H. Khetsey, Roopling and servants; from Colombo, Mr and Mrs Caldwell, Mrs Castleman and maid, Misses Cable and Postlewhaite and Mr P. Gaisford; from Penang, Mr and Mrs Gibson, Miss Little, Comdr. J. H. Lin, Messrs E. T. Hall and Ellis; from Singapore, Mr and Mrs Mingay, Mr, Mrs and Miss Macbeth, Mr and Mrs Pereira, Mr and Miss Parker Sloane, Rev. and Mrs Mansell and infant, Miss Hamilton, Capt. Beardsley, Messrs Moll, W. MacIellan, A. S. MacIellan, C. C. Poll, C. S. Brown, A. G. Beaumont, J. R. Barnes, M. Wentman, A. S. Cousland and Rigende; for Shanghai, from London, Mr and Mrs Wood, Rev. and Mrs Phillips, Mrs Carruthers, Mrs Williams and infant, Misses Turnbull and Meaum, Messrs Race, R. Boyd, J. R. Barlow, MacMillan, A. C. Drabble, C. C. Dunman, Kirk and valet; from Marseilles, Mr & Mrs Warren, Messrs A. MacLean, Marshall, Cavalier and F. J. Meyers; from Bombay, Mr Ida and Mr Kodera; from Colombo, Mr and Miss Parker Ness; from Penang, Misses G. Paletta, Musgrove, Ghiloni and Baxter, Messrs H. Ward, Eldred, Wykeham, Greig, Chapman, Beattie, Rehanser, Ryott, Wallace, Phillips, Knight and Stapleton; from Singapore, Messrs Messiter Tooze, J. Gibb, W. S. Young and servant; for Kobe, from Bombay, Mr Mahomed; from Singapore, Messrs J. B. Sutter and C. N. Crosse; for Yokohama, from London, Rear Adml. and Mrs Mead, Mr and Mrs Barrett, Mr and Mrs Hay and infant, Mrs & Miss Atkinson, Mrs Ley Alkin, Mrs Kennard, Mrs Williamson and Miss Papson; from Marseilles, Mr and Mrs Lowe, Mrs and Miss McConnell, Miss Parke and maid, Major General Dalton and Captain Vandeleur; from Port Said, Mr and Mrs W. A. Collind and infant, Mr and Mrs J. Rogers; from Penang, Mr and Mrs Clarence.

Per *Salazie*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, General and Mrs Piel; from Shanghai, Mr and Mrs Montague Ede, Mr and Mrs Pinder, Mrs A. Levy, Mrs Carmen, Messrs Jkanston, de Jaurias, Mausfield, Grisels, Wolke, Shammensky, Mirashimcoff, Abraham and Sassoon.

Per *Nera*, for Hongkong, from Colombo, Mr and Mrs Wallan and Miss Dauven; from Singapore, Mr and Mrs de Bryun, Mr and Mrs Oberhummer, Misses Spicer and C. Spicer, Messrs A. Halmann, Rengkee, A. Person, Sakata, Fers, Bourguignot, Maria & Salvatore.

Per *Kamakura Maru*, from London, &c., Mr and Mrs M. Beart, Mr and Mrs G. C. Kitching and child, Mr and Mrs R. M. Ransom, Mr and Mrs J. Power, Mr and Mrs W. A. Cleland and child, Mrs M. N. Caldwell, Mrs M. Doughton, Mrs Y. Taller, Mrs C. T. Aris and 2 children, Misses D. mith, A. H. Carr and J. K. Power, Messrs C. Midzakami, A. Glinister, F. Tetamanti and I. F. Malton.

DEPARTED.

Per *Kaga Maru*, for Seattle, &c., Mr and Mrs A. K. Rhoden, infant and servant, Mr and Mrs B. Honig and infant, Messrs W. B. White, Y. Nakajima, Davies, W. B. Milne and A. C. Gomes.

Per *Awa Maru*, for London, &c., H. H. The Yuvaraja of Mysore, Sirdar M. Lakomihkantaray Urs, Sirdar M. Gapalaray Urs, Mr H. Krishuo Urs, Mr H. Lingaray Urs, Lt.-Col. H. E. Drake Brockman, Messrs Gajanan, V. Karve, Fembe, Niza, M. Ismail, S. Rungannan, A. Singuachar and M. Subbania.

Per *Zafiro*, for Manila, Mr and Mrs P. S. Moon, Mr and Mrs H. Kraft, Mr and Mrs F. L. Sawyer and child, Mr and Mrs G. Manlin, Mr and Mrs A. J. Stephens, Mr and Mrs C. S. Salmon, Major and Mrs G. Sands, Mrs J. Paton and child, Mrs Sawa Nogosawa, Miss A. M. Moon, Messrs W. L. McVay, F. van Praag, J. Barriere, D. B. Clark, P. B. Danky, A. von Arend, R. Wichter, A. Wagner, C. Wulkow and J. H. Gibson.

Per *Monteagle*, for Vancouver, &c., Mr and Mrs Widdoes, children and family, Mr and Mrs L. Sibbs, Mr and Mrs Infante, Major and Mrs Taylor, Rev. and Mrs Murphy, Rev. and Mrs McKay and 3 children, Mrs C. E. Richardson, Mrs C. J. Farrow, Misses M. F. Davies, Taylor, Flounce Milles, Morton, Heard and Jackson, Messrs R. S. Carte, B. Walter, A. J. Darby, P. Cooper, W. S. McBryde, J. Fisher, A. H. Crook, H. Swann and Wm. W. Wilson.

Per *Kleist*, for Shanghai, Mr and Mrs Ayscough, Mr and Mrs Rumjahn, Miss Hoagland, Messrs E. F. Seull, Lanning, L. Muhle, John St. Andley, N. P. King, Karten, Hoehnke, E. Guttentag, R. P. Vasany, R. Hurley and A. Abins; for Nagasaki, Messrs Kimura, Abe and Kalagiri; for Kobe, Messrs Dobayshi, H. W. Wilkinson, R. Lenzmann and Chean; for Yokohama, Mr and Mrs Spouldring and party, Mr and Mrs G. E. Wise and daughters, Prof. Dr. E. Friesland, Messrs A. Guttinger, Payne and A. Stubbs.

Per *Manchuria*, for San Francisco, &c., Mr and Mrs G. N. Clemson, Mr and Mrs W. S. Allen and family, Mr and Mrs B. F. Magie, Mr and Mrs F. M. Savage, Mr and Mrs C. C. Con, Rev. Dr. and Mrs Ward Denys, Mrs M. A. Crosley, Mrs H. H. Clark, Mrs C. H. Kip, Mrs I. Ritter, Mrs G. H. Brenfel and servant, Misses L. F. Whilden, F. and E. Clemson, S. Whitney, M. L. Childs, St. Clair Okie, B. Richards and G. F. Waldo, Doctors P. S. Huang, C. E. de Horety and I. Ritter, Messrs C. F. Osborne, H. M. Meyer, D. A. Lawson, A. C. Lofts and servant, J. A. Powell, M. E. Mitchell, S. J. Harris, F. R. Veda, A. Newton Smith, E. Wallach, W. H. Tidwell, Thos. F. Sheedy, T. B. O'Kie, H. E. Ward, W. H. Thompson, H. A. W. Brent, E. H. Colleyshaw & servant, H. E. Heacock and S. H. Chambers.

PASSENGERS EXPECTED.

Per *Prinz Ludwig* is due on the 13th Mar.—Mr and Mrs Nagel, Mr and Mrs D. H. Bishop, Misses E. Herwig and E. Humerdinger, Messrs Joh Maier, Herm and Kruck.

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